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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 69 | MONDAY APRIL 8, 2013 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Mariana Resort junior chef wins 1st Texas BBQ sandwich contest. PAGE 2
Operation Deviant Guard checks 55 sex offenders. PAGE 3

POLL RESULTS

Who will be the 2013 NCAA Men's Basketball champion?

Louisville	34
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Sunday, April 7, 2013

INSIDE

BUSINESS

A streak of robust job growth came to a halt in March.

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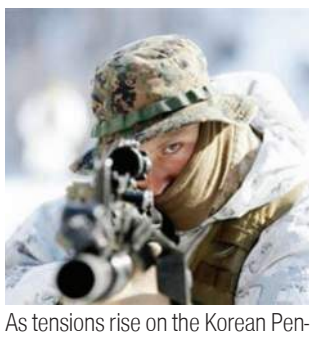
ASIA



As tensions rise on the Korean Peninsula, one thing remains certain: All sides have good reason to avoid an all-out war.

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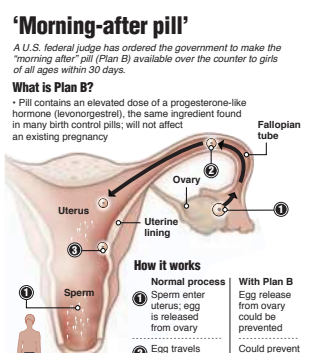
HEALTH & FITNESS


'Morning-after pill'
A U.S. federal judge has ordered the government to make the "morning after" pill (Plan B) available over the counter to girls of all ages within 30 days.
What is Plan B?
• Pill contains an elevated dose of a progesterone-like hormone (levonorgestrel), the same ingredient found in many birth control pills; will not affect an existing pregnancy
Fallopian tube
Ovary
Uterus
Uterine lining
Sperm
How it works
Normal process
With Plan B
1 Sperm enter uterus; egg is released from ovary
Egg release from ovary could be prevented
Egg travels
Could prevent

President Barack Obama supports requiring girls younger than 17 to see a doctor before buying the morning-after pill.

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$2.9M Marpi public cemetery sits IDLE FOR 2 YEARS

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While other cemeteries are almost filled to capacity, a federal-funded $2.9 million CNMI public cemetery in Marpi has been sitting idle two years since its construction was completed because government agencies have yet to come up with regulations, identify funding for its operation and maintenance, and hook power supply, among other things.

» As other cemeteries almost filled to capacity

As of yesterday, there's no telling whether the Inos administration will reprogram funds to operate the Marpi Public Cemetery this year or appropriate money for it in the proposed fiscal year 2014 budget of $114 million.

With the help of federal funds, the CNMI was able to hire a contractor to build a new public cemetery with 2,500 double crypts or double-stack occupancy crypts for a total of 5,000

See IDLE on Page 4

CHCC board urged to reconsider decision on Babauta contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Babauta

The Senate Committees on Health and Welfare appealed on Friday evening to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board to reconsider its decision not to renew CEO Juan N. Babauta's contact.

Committee chair Sen. Joaquin H. Borja (R-Tinian) said keeping Babauta would ensure "continuity" of leadership but in making sure federal monies will continue to

See CONTRACT on Page 4

Inos: CNMI weighs US military plans for Pagan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Inos

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said on Friday that the CNMI is weighing the U.S. Department of Defense's additional plans for Pagan and Tinian for military training and national security reasons with that of concerns from former Pagan residents who want to resettle on the island.

But Inos said it is "premature at this point" to say that Pagan is ready for resettlement, owing to volcanic activity concerns on the island.

See MILITARY on Page 4

GOLD STANDARD MONETH G. DEPOSA

The gold medalists in the 2013 Regional Thespian Competition gather for a group photo after the awarding ceremonies Saturday night at the Oleai Elementary School. Twelve students, along with the MHS' Rhythm 'N Harmony, will vie for national titles in Lincoln, Nebraska in June this year.

Pre-filed Saipan casino bill to pump most money into Fund

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Floor Leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and at least eight other co-sponsors pre-filed on Friday afternoon a bill allowing casino gambling on Saipan, the third legislation of its kind to be introduced in three years to pump more money into the NMI Retirement Fund and support other services such as public health and education.

Up to 80 percent of casino license fees, gaming taxes, other taxes, fees and payments associated with Saipan casino operations will go toward the pension agency.

The Fund is expected to expire in March 2014 unless it receives immediate infusion of $60 million to $70 million annually starting this year.

Demapan said opening up Saipan to casino investors is a way to meet this immediate infusion of cash that the pension agency requires.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), one of the co-sponsors of the casino bill, said no other option at this time will make an immediate positive impact on the Fund.

"We can't expect miracles to happen. We should not accept the fact that the Fund will terminate in March 2014 without trying all options including casinos," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

See CASINO on Page 4

Mariana Resort junior chef wins 1st Texas BBQ sandwich contest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A junior chef from Mariana Resort & Spa topped the 1st Certified Angus Beef Texas Style Brisket Sandwich competition held at the Mariana Seaside Circuit grounds on Saturday.

Rico Delos Reyes won $200 and a prize package from proud sponsors Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Certified Angus Beef, beating two other contenders in the event that coincided with the inaugural Budweiser Go Kart Championship.

Delos Reyes earned the approving nods of a panel of judges for his Beef BBQ Sandwich prepared with black pepper and vinegar sauce that the skillful junior chef thought of only recently.

"I just used my imagination in making the sauce which also has different herbs to make it more flavorsome. But the real secret was to grill the Angus Beef to perfection and make it really succulent," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 35-year-old Delos Reyes arrived on Saipan in 2007 after working for a decade at Chow King, a fast food restaurant in the Philippines. On island, he worked for Bolis Catering for one year before he was gainfully employed by Mariana Resort & Spa.

Delos Reyes, who has been working at Mariana Resort & Spa for the last six years, said emerging triumphant in the first competition he ever joined has given him more confidence about his culinary skills, with plans to take it to the next level by joining future cooking contests.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Triple J marketing manager Jay Santos, right, announces the winners for the 1st Certified Angus Beef Texas Style Brisket Sandwich competition while emcee Gordon Marciano looks on during the event on Saturday.

Mariana Resort & Spa's Rico Delos Reyes smiles for the camera before being announced the winner of the 1st Certified Angus Beef Texas Style Brisket Sandwich contest at the Mariana Seaside Circuit grounds on Saturday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

He acknowledged the support he received from chef William Retardo, general manager Gloria Cruz Cavanagh, and other co-workers who believed in his flair in the kitchen.

In second place was Edward San Nicolas of Hyatt Regency Saipan for his Garlic Herbs Focaccia Shaved Corned Certified Angus Beef Brisket in Tangy Tropical Barbecue Sauce served with Tapioca Salad, while third place was awarded to Nemencio Tulio of Fiesta Resort & Spa.

San Nicolas and Tulio won $100 and $50, respectively. All winners also received prize packages from Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Certified Angus Beef.

The three entries were evaluated based on presentation of theme, degree of difficulty, taste and tenderness of the beef by Tom Hernandez of Mobil, Guy Pudney of Marpac, and Randy Steele of Triple J Motors.

Triple J marketing manager Jay Santos said the idea behind the contest is to allow the junior chefs to come out and showcase their culinary skills, as agreed to by the executive chefs from member hotels of the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands.

"Looking at their presentations, they are awesome and have a lot to be proud of. With all the people that came out, we're extremely happy and I assure the community and the HANMI that we're going to make it bigger than ever next year," said Santos.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Third place winner Nemencio Tulio of Fiesta Resort & Spa cuts the sandwich he served to event spectators

HANMI vice chair Gloria Cruz Cavanagh, for her part, said they are pleased with the turnout for the cooking contest, adding that having the spotlight on the junior chefs was an excellent idea to promote their skills and creativity in the community.

"Texas BBQ sandwich is not something that we're used to here on Saipan. I think it's very new to our chefs on island and I'm very excited to see that the results look just absolutely awesome," said Cavanagh.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Second placer Edward San Nicolas of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

China's Golf Travel Magazine Features NMI

China's **Golf Travel Magazine** recently featured golf opportunities in the Northern Marianas with a 6-page article titled **"108 Holes in Saipan."**

In February 2013, nearly 3,000 visitors to Saipan came specifically to golf. The number of golfers from China doubled from the previous February to 50 golfers, in part due to promotions targeting the niche market that the **Marianas Visitors Authority** has undertaken over the last several months through its offices in China. The Northern Marianas boast a number of world-class, professionally designed courses with breathtaking vistas on Saipan and **Rota**.

Golf Travel Magazine has a circulation of 290,000, and the estimated advertising exposure value of the article was $86,400.

Local

Operation Deviant Guard checks 55 sex offenders

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety and the United States Marshals Service District of Guam and NMI conducted last week their third Operation Deviant Guard, a three-day compliance check targeting sex offenders.

The operation resulted in location and verification of 55 sex offenders, registration of 34 incarcerated sex offenders in the Department of Corrections, one arrest for non-compliance, and eradication of two potted marijuana plants about 3 feet tall.

The entire operation was completed in five days, including its planning and actual action reports to the media on Friday. The actual activity, however, kicked off on Tuesday and was done on Thursday.

The registration of 34 convicted sex offenders included taking their photographs, fingerprinting and DNA collection, according to Police Officer Jason Tarkong, who is the officer-in-charge of the DPS Sex Offender Registry Unit, in a news briefing on Friday at the CNMI Judiciary's conference room.

Tarkong said sex offender John Pangelinan Cabrera was arrested for non-compliance of the CNMI Sex Offender Registry Public Law 17-49 for failing to notify the Probation Office when he moved from Tinian to Saipan.

Tarkong said Cabrera will be charged for failure to comply with the registration law, which is a felony or an offense that carries an imprisonment of up to three years in jail and a $2,000 fine.

» 34 jailed sex offenders registered, marijuana plants seized

He said the task force came across marijuana plants in plain view of a residence located next to a registered sex offender's home in Dandan.

"The marijuana plants were seized, taken into evidence, and turned over to narcotics officers for follow-up investigations on the subject," Tarkong said.

Tarkong said there are 121 registered sex offenders on Saipan, four on Tinian, and six on Rota. Fifty-five are active or they are still in the CNMI, 34 in custody, and 35 were targeted in the operation.

"This initiative is the third of similar operations conducted in the past and planned for the future, in an effort to protect or safeguard the community, most especially the children," he said.

DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero thanked the U.S. Marshals Service and many NMI and Guam agencies for their "extraordinary level of cooperation" in trying to get the operation done.

Deleon Guerrero said there will be vigorous enforcement from this point on in terms of making sure that these sex offenders will be monitored in the CNMI.

Department of Corrections commissioner Ramon Mafnas said DOC fully supports the efforts of both the U.S. Marshals Service and DPS in this operation.

Mafnas said all sex offenders sentenced by the court will be registered immediately.

Mafnas said they want to ensure that such sex offenders are well monitored and tracked in the communities.

U.S. Marshal for Districts of Guam/NMI Frank Leon Guerrero said what is really nice here is that the U.S. Marshal Service provides help to other departments in the registry of sex offenders.

Leon Guerrero disclosed that the information that they collected, including DNA testing, goes the national data base.

"So although we're capturing sex offenders over here, the DNA information that we're getting from persons over here could actually help solve other crimes," he said.

Leon Guerrero said collection of DNA information does not necessarily restrict the criminal activity to just sex offense, but they could be burglary or assault and other crimes.

"Once we put them on the national data base, it goes to nationwide," he said, adding that he really appreciates that the community has now accepted the registration.

Deputy U.S. Marshal Marciano J.I. Patricio said they began the operation in Guam for a week and that the second part was on Saipan.

Patricio said in Guam there are about 400 to 600 registered sex offenders and during the operation, one or two were arrested for sexual assault and 14 others were apprehended for having outstanding criminal warrants.

See OFFENDERS on Next Page

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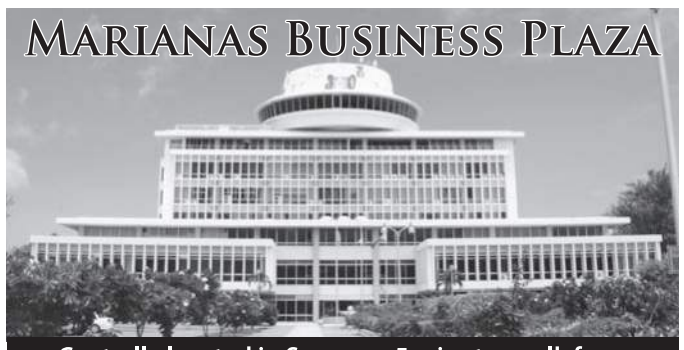

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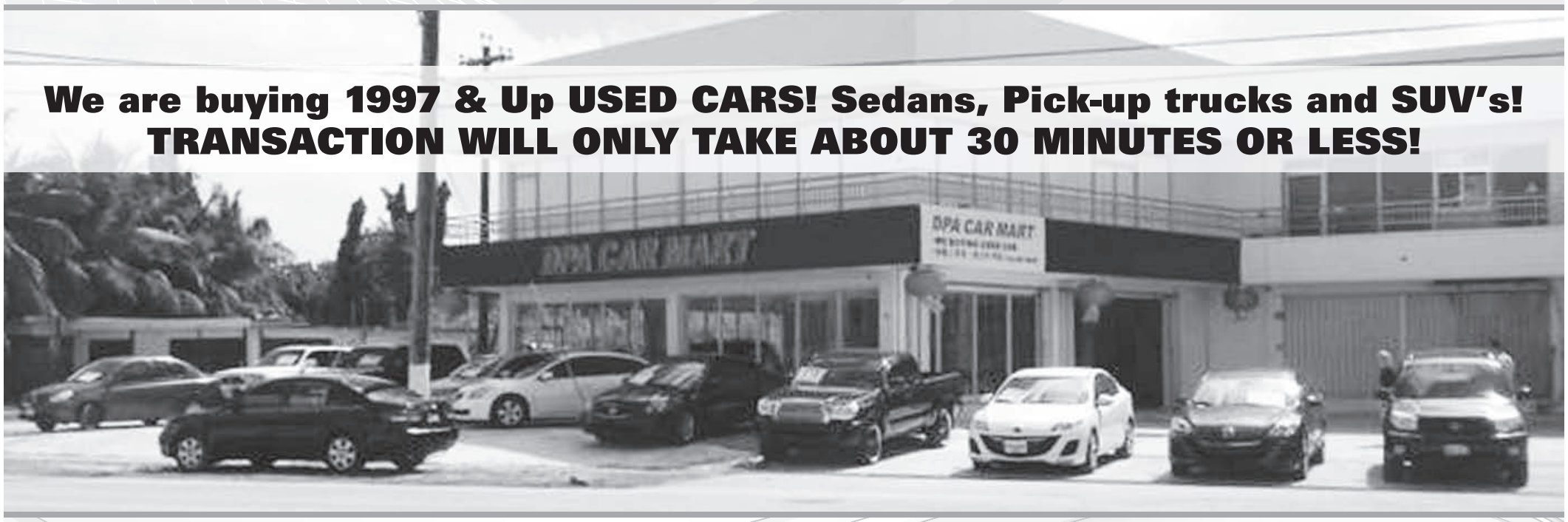

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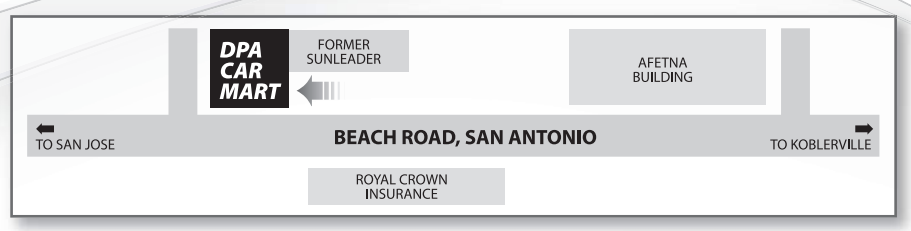

CONTRACT

From Page 1

come in for the public hospital.

But this early, corporation board trustees expressed their unwillingness to grant the lawmakers' request, citing the decision on the CEO's contract was reached after a fair and objective process including comprehensive evaluation of the official.

Borja, on behalf his committee's counterpart in the House, and Senate vice president Victor D. Hocog (R-Rota) pointed out that the request they presented is the position of both panels after a series of deliberations and meetings where they assessed the situation of the corporation.

Hocog disclosed that based on communications with officials of the U.S. Office of the Interior, the federal agency had made it clear that federal monies for CHCC from OIA are withheld pending the hiring of a new CEO.

"Mr. Nik Pula (of OIA) had expressed deep concern on the substantial funding that OIA has contributed to ensure the hospital will continue to meet the certification requirements. (Because) As of today, funding from OIA will be put on hold until such time the CHCC board will come out with a new CEO," disclosed Hocog before members of the CHCC board. The senator clarified that the OIA had strongly emphasized to them that it doesn't want to interfere on local decisions made for the hospital.

Hocog disclosed that the both panels in the Legislature felt that Babauta, during his term as CEO from October 2011 to date, has done substantial progress in bringing the corporation to where it is today. He cited, among others, the convincing progress made for CHC collections and revenues, the avert of hospital decertification, and others.

For a CEO to manage the operation of such big facility as CHC with only $5 million seed money or a meager $1.9 million this fiscal year, Hocog claimed, is such an accomplishment that can be attributed to its CEO's leadership. Also cited is the trust gained by CHCC in obtaining another $3 million loan from MPLT.

Hocog and Borja appealed that Babauta's contract be renewed for one year for the continuity of progress in the facility. His contract is expiring on July 9 this year. The CHCC board voted not to renew this contract on March 21 due to the trustees' dissatisfaction on his performance. As an advisory board, its decision will be recommended to the Governor for ultimate decision.

"(Our deep concern and that of the OIA) If one (new CEO) will be hired tomorrow, we will be going back to the drawing board all over again!" said Hocog, adding that there's room for "consideration and cooperation" between the CHCC board and the Legislature for the continued progress of the hospital.

Very uncalled for

For CHCC board vice chair Pedro Dela Cruz, statements made by Hocog has clear insinuation that OIA, if Babauta will not be retained, will put on hold all assistance for the CHCC.

"Are you saying that OIA will put on hold the funding if we do not change our decision? That's the insinuation (if Mr. Babauta will not be retained as CEO)! That to me, is one that is uncalled for!" stated Dela Cruz, adding that lawmakers' request must be submitted to the board in writing. Dela Cruz said that at first, he thought the lawmakers came in to assure funding assistance for the hospital but to his surprise had appeared for "other reason."

He even mentioned lawmakers how the CEO failed, for one year, in many "simple assignments" from the board such as the designation of a board secretary which he claimed has always been a challenge every time they called a meeting.

"We appreciate the Legislature's concern…but our findings (on the CEO issue) are based on facts," he added.

Hocog clarified to the board that whether Babauta will be retained or not, the Senate is committed in providing a higher funding for CHCC in next fiscal year. Hocog is a member of the Senate fiscal and affairs committee.

According to trustee Anthony Aguon, the lawmakers must be informed that what the board decided has already been recommended to the governor, thus decision on Babauta is now beyond their control.

Like Dela Cruz, Aguon was vocal in saying that he would not change his vote citing the fair process conducted on the matter which all based on the requirement of the law.

Trustee Anthony Raho, for his part, told lawmakers that since the beginning Babauta's appointment was "political" in nature because he is not qualified to the job as specified by law. He said one major reason why Babauta was voted out was the lost of confidence of the medical staff. According to Raho, the board's decision is also aligned, somehow, to the findings made by HealthTech which identified the need for a turn-around management.

Babauta, for his part, told fellow trustees that he did not solicit any support or help from any lawmakers to have his contract extended or renewed.

"They come here at their own free will. I did not solicit their help or even simply discussing this (issue). I just want to make that clear," said Babauta.

MILITARY

From Page 1

"At this point there is no decision on the resettlement. There exists a present threat because of the volcanic activities out there," the governor told reporters during the grand opening of the Kagman Community Health Center on Friday morning.

The U.S. military plans to establish a series of live-fire and maneuver ranges and training areas on Tinian and Pagan, after the release of a study showing insufficient training facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly those in the CNMI.

Inos said the CNMI government will be coming up with an official position statement on the U.S. military's additional plans for Tinian and Pagan.

The military has scheduled public scoping meetings on the notice of intent to proceed with the Marines' new plan for the use of Tinian and Pagan.

The first one will be on April 10 from 5pm to 8pm in the cafeteria of Dandan Elementary School. This will be followed on April 11 from 4pm to 7pm at Tinian Gym. The third one will be on April 12 from 5pm to 8pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Other issues

On Friday, Inos reiterated that the CNMI is working with Guam and the U.S. military to come up with a "plan of action for all CNMI residents" in response to North Korea's threats to attack U.S. bases including those in Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. mainland.

The Pentagon is sending ballistic missile defenses to Guam, the CNMI's closest neighbor and is home to U.S. naval and air bases in the Western Pacific.

As of yesterday, details of such contingency plan that the CNMI is working in with Guam and the U.S. military could not be released.

"The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management has been working closely with local and federal counterparts in Guam. However, in the interest of preserving strategic security measures, details of such plans in place have not been authorized for disclosure," press secretary Angel A. Demapan said.

The governor also said he has yet to appoint a permanent replacement for Marian Tudela, who resigned as Medical Referral Services' field operations manager in Honolulu effective last Thursday. The acting manager is Ronald A. Taisacan.

Inos said Dolores Aldan, a former Corrections commissioner, remains the field operation manager for Guam.

The governor also said he supports an Office of the Public Auditor review of a $60,000 contract awarded to former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, related to the CNMI's marine conservation plan.

Inos said he will meet with Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold Palacios to discuss this matter further.

IDLE

From Page 1

burials. It has a potential to provide over 50,000 crypts for 33 years.

The Legislature also has yet to revisit Public Law 11-117 or the Public Cemetery Act of 1999, to raise the $50 fee for burial at the cemetery, said John Tagabuel, director of the Bureau of Environmental Health.

In a presentation before lawmakers on Capital Hill last week, Tagabuel said the $50 burial fee under the law signed in 2000 is "not enough" to cover the operation and maintenance of the new public cemetery.

This fee can also be waived for indigent families and unclaimed bodies.

"The Legislature did their job (in passing the law) but they didn't cover the maintenance of the cemetery so we're going back," Tagabuel told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the Capital Improvement Project Office is expected to put out a request for proposal to get bids from private entities willing and able to operate and maintain the new public cemetery.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan confirmed yesterday that the public cemetery in Marpi is "already completed" but "it has not yet been opened up for use as the government is currently working on the necessary regulations to be promulgated."

"These regulations will govern the operations and management of the cemetery as well as the implementation and collection of fees for the use of the cemetery. In addition, the government has not been able to supply power and water to the site as a result of litigation on the issue of the power poles in Marpi," he said.

Under a 13-year-old law, upon completion of the Marpi Public Cemetery construction, there should no longer be burials at the Wireless Hill Public Cemetery on Capital Hill.

The law says "within 60 days of such closure," the secretary of the Department of Public Health—now Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.—"shall submit an exhumation plan for the transfer of bodies to the Marpi Public Cemetery and anticipated related costs."

Some two years since the new cemetery's construction was completed in early 2011, no such exhumation plan for the bodies' transfer has been submitted and Marpi Public Cemetery has yet to open.

Demapan said yesterday the exhumation of remains at the Wireless Hill Cemetery for transfer to the Marpi Public Cemetery "is still part of the plan, but we'd like to first get through getting the operations up and running and then taking a look at the resources needed for the exhumation."

PL 11-117 requires DPH—now CHCC—to administer and manage the Marpi Public Cemetery.

The law also requires the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to have "general supervision of the Marpi Public Cemetery over ground maintenance, coordination of burial activities, and further improvements to the Marpi Public Cemetery as may be required by law."

The Department of Public Safety is also supposed to provide security assistance at the cemetery upon request by and in coordination with DPH/CHCC or DLNR.

The Department of Finance secretary, meanwhile, is supposed to set up a special account called the "Public Cemetery Fund Account" for the fees collected under this law, to be used to administer, maintain, supervise, and secure the facility.

The Marpi Public Cemetery has a total area of 18 acres. The CNMI Capital Improvement Projects Office received federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs for the project, which is just beside the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marpi.

CASINO

From Page 1

Demapan pre-filed the bill two days after Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider held a joint leadership meeting with House and Senate members, along with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to brainstorm on revenue-generating measures to help the Fund, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and education programs.

"Tourism is improving but we can't rely solely on that. We need to immediately infuse $60 million to $70 million annually to save our retirees," Demapan said shortly before the bill's prefiling at 3:30pm on Friday.

Investors can opt to secure a 40-year "exclusive license" for $2 million a year or a total of $80 million, half of which is payable in advance within 90 days of the license's approval.

The "non-exclusive casino license" is limited to three casinos in three separate locations on Saipan.

This is for $3 million a year for 10 years or total of $30 million, half of which is also payable within 90 days of the license's approval.

House Bill 18-45 sets aside 80 percent of all taxes, license fees and other payments associated with this legislation—except the $250,000 application fees—to the NMI Retirement Fund.

Rota and Tinian each gets 5 percent of these funds, while the remaining 10 percent goes to Saipan projects.

The gaming machine jackpot tax and associated penalties are also set aside accordingly, and so are the casino gaming tax and penalties associated with them.

The $250,000 license application fee will be used for a casino commission's startup costs and investigation of applicants.

The gaming jackpot tax and associated penalties will be allocated as follows: 50 percent for deficit reduction; 10 percent for the Public School System; 5 percent for Northern Marianas College; 10 percent for CHCC; 5 percent for Rota; 5 percent for Tinian; and 10 percent for Saipan projects.

Demapan, in pre-filing the bill, said the Legislature should not wait another day to start generating revenue to fund retirees' pension.

"The imminent depletion of the Fund's corpus is real. We have only 11 months left. Legislation takes time. Realization of funds from this measure will also take time. We must act now," he said.

Sablan said once the casino bill is introduced, he hopes that it will be referred to the House Ways and Means Committee which he chairs.

Demapan also said regardless of whether people think retirees' benefits are too generous or not, "they were promised these benefits under the law. We must make good on these promises and fulfill our obligation under the law."

"Moreover, if we do not act to save our retirees, it will have a devastating effect on our economy. If retirees do not receive their pensions, this translates to more than $50 million less circulating in our economy. Our economy is just starting to improve and failure to act on this bill will pull us many steps backwards," he added.

Besides Demapan and Sablan, the other Saipan casino bill co-sponsors are: Reps. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), John P. Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Antonio Agulto (IR-Saipan), Tony Benavente (IR-Saipan), Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan), and Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

Saipan voters had twice rejected casinos on island. Tinian and Rota allow casino operations.

OFFENDERS

From Page 3

Seven law enforcers from Saipan and seven others from Guam participated in the third Operation Deviant Guard.

From the CNMI, aside from DPS, the participants were the Office of Parole, Office of Adult Probation, and DOC. From Guam, the participants were from the Guam Police Department, Judiciary of Guam Marshals Division, and Guam Department of Corrections.

In March 2012, Operation Deviant Guard on Saipan resulted in the location and verification of 60 sex offenders, arrest of two offenders for non-compliance, seizure of $2,800 worth of marijuana, and taking of DNA samples.

In July 2011, the first operation targeted 50 registered sex offenders, located and verified 40 offenders, arrested five for non-compliance, and confiscated $7,000 worth of marijuana plants.

CUC residential customers' rate among lowest in Pacific

A recent survey conducted by the economists.com revealed that Commonwealth Utilities Corp. residential customers are paying among the lowest utility costs in the Pacific islands, which include Guam and Oahu, Hawaii.

The survey was conducted in March 2013 on 10 Pacific Islands and indicated that islands with the lowest utility rates offered to residential customers are Guam and Oahu because most of their electricity is generated with heavy fuel oil as opposed to diesel fuel which is the primary fuel source at other islands surveyed.

Based on March 2013 spot prices, heavy fuel oil is about 25 percent, or $.77 per gallon less expensive than diesel fuel.

"For a typical residential customer using 500 kWh per month, a monthly bill would be $136.63 in Guam; $178.15 in the CNMI; $1.83.12 in Oahu; and $244.21 per month in Lanai," according to the survey result submitted to CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher.

For a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month, a monthly bill would be $292.95 in Guam; $383.04 in the CNMI; $361.27 in Oahu; and $487.66 per month in Lanai, also in Hawaii.

Utility companies surveyed by the expert included the CUC; Guam Power Authority; Hawaiian Electric Company; Maui Electric Co., Limited; Hawaii Electric Light Company; American Samoa Power Authority; Marshalls Electric Company; Maui Electric Co, Limited—Lanai Division; Kauai Electric Coop; and Maui Electric Co., Limited-Molokai Division.

According to Fletcher, diesel fuel remains the main source of power generation in many islands.

"We all know that power rates are high, especially compared to producers that do not generate power with #2 Diesel fuel or that use Heavy Fuel Oil. However, the use of diesel fuel is still the main source of power generation in the Pacific Islands and the survey shows that CUC rates are among the lowest of similar generating power systems," he said yesterday.

While the survey shows that CUC is operating competitively, Fletcher said they are not resting on their laurels. CUC, he said, is continuing to seek efficiencies in its operations and power-generation systems. He disclosed that CUC had invested millions of dollars since 2009, when rolling blackouts were a common occurrence. He said a lot of work still needs to be done

"Part of that work is continuing the upgrades to our power plants and using those power plants that have the highest efficiency levels. Later this year we will be completing the installation of new radiators that will further increase engine efficiency, however investment is lacking into our Transmission & Distribution systems to reduce line losses," he said.

He said CUC also continue to pursue new energy sources including solar, geothermal, and waste to energy technologies. But before jumping into renewables, CUC has to be ready as a utility. This means, he said, understanding the grid system and how much and where they can safely penetrate the system without causing instability. An extensive grid analysis project will soon be underway, according to Fletcher.

"Next is having a solid plan of the size and type of energy to integrate into the system. These sources should range from renewable sources to natural gas. However, before we enter into any agreements, sound engineering and full economic analysis is a must," he added.

Fletcher also pointed out that CUC must be financially prepared to either invest on its own or enter into agreements with investors, such as in a Power Purchase Agreement.

"However, we continue to struggle as a utility with large deficits in collections and a shrinking customer base. While the deficits are a reflection of the CNMI's overall economy, they impact CUC's creditworthiness, which results in higher costs of capital—bottom line, we will pay more per kWh due to our weak financial condition," added the acting executive director. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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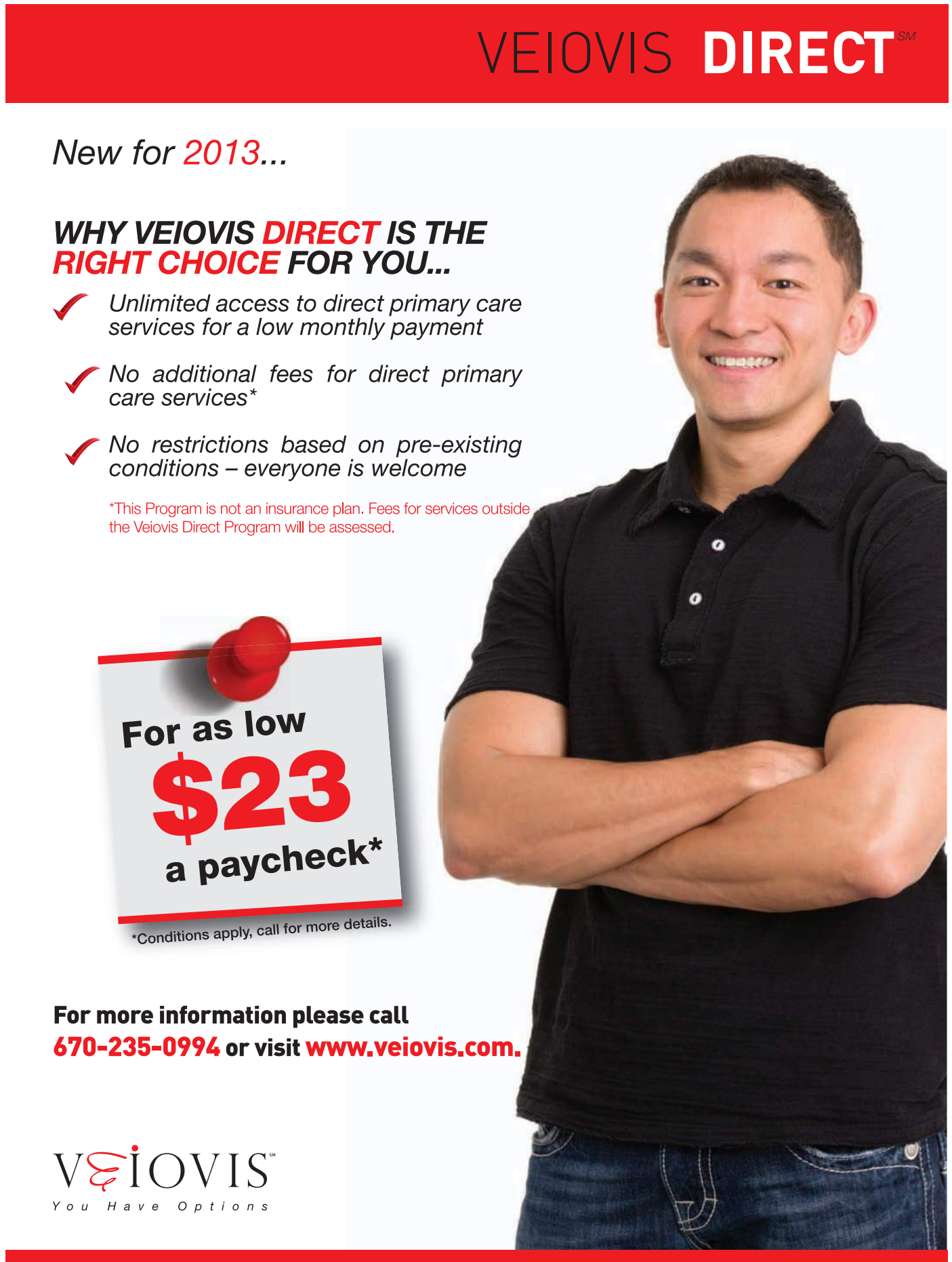
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NOTICE OF MEETING
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
BOARD OF REGENTS' SPECIAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 09, 2013
Time: 1:00p.m.
Place: Northern Marianas College
BOR Conference Room
Saipan Campus

AGENDA

I. Call Meeting to Order
a. Roll Call
b. Review and Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comment Period: Individuals may orally testify on items on this agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Testifiers are requested to limit their testimony to five (5) minutes.

III. New Business
a. President's Employment Contract

IV. Executive Session
(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

V. Board Meeting Assessment

VI. Adjournment

/s/ Juan T. Lizama Date: April 04, 2013
BOR Chairperson

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- Tanapag Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

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- Dan Dan Elementary School
- San Vicente Elementary School

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- WSR Elementary School

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Woman drowns at Managaha

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman drowned while swimming at the northern side of Managaha Island Saturday morning.

Rong Ma, 29, a Chinese national, never regained consciousness and at 11:04am, Commonwealth Health Center's chief of medical staff Dr. Gregory Kotheimer pronounced her dead.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said yesterday that, on Saturday at 10:38am, one of the Managaha rangers called DPS and reported that lifeguards were administering CPR on a woman and that a Tasi Tour boat was transporting the victim to Smiling Cove Marina.

Blas said preliminary investigations conducted by a Boating Safety officer showed that lifeguard Larry Sharry found the victim at the northern side of Managaha.

Sharry was at the aid station when a bystander informed him about a problem on the north side of the island where no lifeguard was posted.

Sharry noticed that a crowd had gathered around the beach side so he immediately ran toward the area.

When Sharry and co-worker Peter Cruz met the crowd, they found a woman facing up while lying in the sand. The woman appeared unconscious at the time.

Sharry started administering CPR on the victim. A Tasi Tour boat came to the location where the victim was loaded and brought to Smiling Cove Marina.

Medics met the boat at the Smiling Cove Marina and transported the victim to CHC, where she was taken into the trauma room.

Nurses continued administering CPR, but she never regained consciousness, police said.

"Boating Safety officers are still investigating this incident," Blas said.

Last Feb. 18, a 60-year-old Russian male drowned while snorkeling outside the reef of Obyan Beach.

The victim identified as Gennadi Kosolapkin was located at 9:40pm by Guam U.S. Coast Guard Rescue 5 helicopter about half a mile south of Obyan Beach.

Eight days later or on Feb. 26, Reinhold Armo Meister, a 61-year-old Canadian clinical psychologist was reportedly swept out to sea from Obyan Beach while also snorkeling. His body was never recovered.

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Visitor arrivals up 6 pct in February

February 2013 visitor arrivals to the CNMI were up 6 percent compared to February 2012. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 38,350 visitors in February compared to 36,332 in February 2012.

Arrivals from Japan in February dipped slightly to 14,883 visitors, 3 percent lower than last year, partly because of the leap year in 2012 which meant February last year had an extra day. Also, the 8 percent depreciation in value of the Japanese yen so far this year makes the NMI a more expensive destination for Japanese travelers as compared with last year.

Arrivals from Korea fell 19 percent in February to 10,098 visitors. Key Korean travel agents indicate that the key reason for the year-on-year decline in Korean arrivals was primarily due to the high occupancy of CNMI hotels during the Lunar New Year and peak winter charter flights to Cebu, Cambodia, Phuket, and others short-flight time destinations. Asiana Airlines continues to operate charter flights from Korea twice weekly using an Airbus 330 with 290 seats for the winter season from Jan. 10 to Mar, 29.

Meanwhile, arrivals from China rose 74 percent in February to 10,776 visitors due to the fact that the Lunar New Year this year fell in February while in 2012 it fell in January. This is the first time in history that Chinese arrivals to the NMI have exceeded 10,000 Chinese visitors in a given month. In conjunction with Century Tours, DFS Saipan, and other key China travel agents, the MVA China office launched a large-scale billboard, subway advertising, PR and travel trade campaign in February in support of the Beijing flights and also targeting the post-Lunar New Year low season.

Arrivals from Russia more than doubled in February, registering a 114 percent increase in arrivals to 786. With the launch of bi-weekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok to Saipan in late October, arrivals from Russia are up 59 percent this fiscal year and are anticipated to continue rapid growth with the March launch of weekly charter flights from Khabarovsk, Russia. ***(PR)***

Ex-convict arrested for 'ice' possession

An ex-convict was arrested after he allegedly threw a glass pipe that contained residue of methamphetamine or "ice" outside his car in Kagman Wednesday night.

Mario O. Sablan, 36, was taken to Superior Court on Friday afternoon for illegal possession of controlled substance.

Detective Patrick P. Sablan stated in his report that, on Wednesday night Police Officer Rodolfo Hermosilla was driving an unmarked Department of Public Safety vehicle along a road near Kagman traffic light when he spotted a vehicle traveling at the same direction with no tail light.

Hermosilla called DPS radio and requested for any police unit closer to the location to respond for a violator stop.

Police Officer Carol Tudela arrived at the location aboard a marked police cruiser and stopped the vehicle.

Hermosilla informed Sablan, who was the driver of the vehicle, that he was cited for traffic violation.

While Hermosilla took his citation book from his unmarked vehicle, he noticed Sablan throwing an object from the passenger side window onto the grassy area.

When confronted about the object, Sablan stated it was betel nut fiber.

After Hermosilla handed Sablan a traffic citation, he later found a clear pipe that contained white crystalline substance.

The officer arrested Sablan for illegal possession of controlled substance. The suspect was searched and found from his pouch seven .22 ammunitions.

Another police officer searched the suspect and found three small baggies, one contained white crystalline substance.

The following day, a detective tested the substance recovered from Sablan and determined it presumptive positive with "ice." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

FREE TRAINING COURSES!

CULTURA ATHLETICS, LLC

Cultura Athletics, LLC under a sub-award grant issued to the Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council is able to provide the follow courses free of charge to U.S. eligible workers. Some courses also qualify for professional development credit with the CNMI Public School System.

BASKETBALL COURSES (Ada Gym)

Basketball Coaching Level 1	6:00pm-9:00pm	(5 Days)	April 08 - 13, 2013
Basketball 101 (@Tinian Gym)	4:00pm-7:00pm	(3 Days)	April 19, 2013
	8:00am-5:00pm		April 20, 2013
	10:00am-2:00pm		April 21, 2013

*To register for these courses and other info, please contact (670) 235-1775 or email: eli_rang@yahoo.com

Scoretable Officials	4:30pm-8:30pm	(3 Days)	April 9, 11, 13, 2013
Level "O"/1 Basketball Referee	4:30pm-8:30pm	(6 Days)	April 15 - 19, 2013
	8:30am-6:30pm		April 20, 2013

*To register for these courses and other info, please contact (670) 234-8604 or email: 731ekul@gmail.com
* Venue To be determined (TBD)

VOLLEYBALL COURSES

Coaching Mini Volleyball *For Elementary Schools	8:30am-2:30pm	(Daily)	April 9 - 12, 2013
Coaching Volleyball for Beginners *For Junior High Schools	8:30am-2:30pm	(Daily)	April 15 - 19, 2013
Indoor Referee (Session 1)	4:30pm-8:30pm	(2 Days)	April 10 & 12, 2013
(Session 2)	4:30pm-8:30pm	(2 Days)	April 23 & 25, 2013

*To register for these courses and other info, please contact (670) 234-8604 or email: 731ekul@gmail.com
* Venue To be determined (TBD)

ATHLETICS COURSES (Tinian High School Track & Field)

Intro to Athletics	4:00pm-8:00pm	(3 Days)	April 26, 2013
	8:00am-5:00pm		April 27, 2013
	10:00am-2:00pm		April 28, 2013

*To register for this course and other info, please contact (670) 235-1775 or email: eli_rang@yahoo.com

"This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of $145,000.00 under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a Sub-grant award from the CNMI Department of Commerce."

FREE Career Prep Worshops:

April 9
11am: On-Campus Employment Opportunities Exhibit, Student Center
1pm: Resume Writing with Jack Kiyoshi, Student Center

April 10
10am: Free Health Screening - NMC Nursing, Student Center
12pm: One on One with Dr. James Hofschneider and Dr. John Tudela, Student Center
1pm: Dress for Success - Michelle Sablan / Interview Prep with Laila Boyer, Student Center

April 11
11am: DPS/Fire Panel and Exhibit, D-1
1pm: Employer Expectations - Josephine Mesta, D-1

April 16
11am: Protect Your Environment - MINA, Student Center
1pm: Customer Service - Chavel Green, Student Center

April 17
11am: Fair Labor Standards Act - Dan Wang and Dean Tenorio, Student Center
1pm: Handling Your Finances - Hermie Matsumoto and Joanne Aldan, Student Center

April 18
CAREER FAIR DAY, 9am-12pm, Rm. D-1
The Career Fair day will feature many companies and organizations looking to fill job vacancies. All job seekers in the community are encouraged to attend!

Career Fair 2013
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For more information about the Career Fair, please visit www.nmcnet.edu, or call 234-5498 ext. 1313

Lawmaker: No water for Rota farmers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenip@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) is asking the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to reconnect water service to some 20 Rota farmers and their families relying on water supply from the water cave main pipeline to Ka'an. CUC cited U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's requirement of chlorine treatment, among other things.

Santos, writing to CUC on behalf of affected farmers since last month, sought "prompt action" to the reconnection request "for humanitarian and economic reasons."

"The affected farmers have expressed willingness to sign a waiver from CUC which would exonerate any liability on the part (of) CUC so that they can continue to avail (of) water supply from the disconnected areas," Santos said in her April 2 letter to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher.

Yesterday, however, Santos said she received a "verbal response" from CUC's Fletcher on April 4, indicating that in addition to EPA's policy, CUC is also requiring the affected farmers to submit an application for water service. Santos said the farmers raised no objection.

The farmers will also be charged or assessed agricultural rate for the water service, and not residential or commercial rate since their water use is for subsistence living, the lawmaker added.

"Further, what is upsetting for these affected farmers is CUC's disconnecting of their water supply without any advance warning or notice as some of their crops and livestock are greatly affected resulting from CUC's disconnection," Santos told *Saipan Tribune.*

Fletcher has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment as of Sunday afternoon.

Investigators identify person of interest in '96 murder

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has re-opened its investigation into the 1996 murder of Virginia Dejito Coria, a cashier of the former K-Store who was brutally murdered in her small bedroom in Gualo Rai.

DPS spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. in an interview with the media on Friday said as of now, the latest development in Coria's murder is that investigators have identified the person of interest.

Blas said detectives from DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau-Special Homicide Activity Resolution Partnership (SHARP) are notifying the public that investigation into this case has been re-opened.

Blas said detectives are requesting for anyone who may have information to this case to contact the investigators at 664-9054 or to remain anonymous call the Crime Stoppers Tips Line at 234-7272.

The spokesman said he has no details about the suspect or the person of interest.

Blas said SHARP investigators will be reopening cold homicide cases that they believe have the highest probability of solutions.

Blas said Coria's murder is one that investigators believe can be solved soon.

Coria, a Filipino national, was then 42 years hold when she was found dead in her small bedroom on the night of Oct. 15, 1996. He throat was reportedly slashed. The autopsy showed she had wounds in both hands, indicating she put up a struggle against the suspect.

Coria was apparently sleeping when the suspect entered her room through the back door of K-Store. The back door leads to several houses, barracks, and a bushy area.

Sources said detectives had already identified the killer as early as 1996, but there was a problem at the time with the physical evidence that was sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratory in the U.S. mainland.

Sources said the suspect was convicted for attempted rape of a Chinese female employee of a store. He was subsequently brought to a prison facility in the U.S. mainland after committing a federal offense while detained at the Department of Corrections in Susupe in 1999.

Last year, a retired police official disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that DPS or the Office of the Attorney General should act now with the evidence so that charges are finally filed.

The retired police official at the time said the suspect "is set to be released either in 2012 or in 2013."

PUBLIC NOTICE

PIC's Point Break flowrider will be closed for repair and maintenance from April 8 to 21, 2013.

We apologize for the inconvenience during this time. Thank you for your understanding and patronage.

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

SOO PONG SAIPAN CORPORATION

NOTICE is hereby given that SOO POONG SAIPAN CORPORATION, a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Corporation (the "Corporation"), was dissolved effective as of March 31, 2013. All persons with claims against the Corporation are to send them in writing at the following address: PMB 400 Box 10005 Saipan, MP 96950.

Pursuant to 4CMC S 4607, the claim of each of the following claimants is barred unless the claimant commences a proceeding to enforce the claim against the Corporation within five (5) years after the publication date of this newspaper notice:

Special Education
State Advisory Panel
1st Quarter Meeting
April 11, 2013
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Board of Education Conference Room

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
- Roll Call
- Presence of a Quorum
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Meeting Minutes
  - December 19, 2012

II. Goals and Priorities – SY 2013-2013

III. Roles and Functions – SESAP

IV. Parent Training – SESAP Members

V. Parent Survey – SY 2012-2013

VI. Other Matters

VII. Adjournment

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Adoption of Agenda
4) Adoption of Minutes
   a) February 27, 2013 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
1) Chair
2) Board Committees
   a) CIP
   b) FPA
   c) ISA
   d) LIA
   e) Student Issues, Community and Parent Programs (SICPP)
   f) AD HOC on Joint BOE-NMC BOR
   g) AD HOC on COE Evaluation
3) Commissioner of Education
   a) Financial Status Reports
      (1) Federal
      (2) Local
   b) Head Start Program
   c) Board Meet & Greet and Parent Summit
   d) Other matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1) Part B Special Education Program Grant Application for FY2013
2) Part C Early Intervention Program Grant Application for FY2013
3) Part B Special Education Program Amendments to the Regulations
4) Head Start Program FY 2014 Basic and T&TA Grant Application
5) Head Start Program Selection Criteria for Children
6) Acceptance of the Audit Report for FY2011
7) Annual Report for FY2011
8) Board Resolution 2013-002 on Sequestration
9) Board Resolution 2013-003 on PREL
10) PSS Library Month Proclamation
11) Proposed Koblerville Jr. High School Masterplan
11) Proposed Koblerville Jr. High School Gymnasium

VI. Executive Session[2]
1) Legal Updates
2) Personnel
3) Other matters

VII. Administrative Matters
1) Certification & Licensure Matters
   a. Endorsement of Certification & Licensure Office Recommendations (Basic I, Basic II, Standard with Endorsement , Standard without Endorsement, Professional)

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 8, 2004

AGO: Babauta did not violate any law
The Attorney General's Office rushed to the defense of Gov. Juan N. Babauta after the Office of the Public Auditor released its findings that the governor exceeded his budget and violated several statutes during his term as Resident Representative to Washington D.C. in 1998 and 1999. Attorney General Pamela Brown pointed out in yesterday's press conference that, as Resident Representative, Babauta did not exceed his appropriation and was, in fact, below his appropriation level. Brown also stressed that a legal review is now underway to address all the concerns cited in the management letter released by the OPA Tuesday.

'Gateway is focused on quality education'
More than revenue generation, the Northern Marianas College's Pacific Gateway project's main focus remains on achieving quality education, according to acting NMC president Tony Deleon Guerrero. "This is what I want to clarify. Revenue is a by-product of this program but our focus is to diversify student population to enhance the learning environment at NMC. We remain focused on our mission, that is to provide quality education to our students," said Guerrero. This, he said, is "the major shift" from the previous leadership' focus on revenue generation involving Pacific Gateway. Guerrero took over from former president Kenneth Wright's post in February.

Apr. 8, 2005

Crisostimo forms own party
Democratic senator Luis C. Crisostimo has formed his own political party, with an aim toward ultimately aligning it with the national Democratic Party. The senator, who lost the local party's endorsement for gubernatorial candidacy to former governor Froilan C. Tenorio, said Wednesday that his group is called "Populao National Democratic Party." "This is going to be the true Democratic Party. It will uphold true democratic, pro-people ideals," said the senator. Comments from the Democratic Party were not immediately available. Crisostimo earlier filed his letter of intent to run as governor for the Democratic Party but was disqualified for not meeting all the requirements, including the payment of application fee worth $1,500.

NMC willing to work on refining licensing regs
The Northern Marianas College board of regents has expressed willingness to work with the Attorney General's Office in refining the proposed licensing regulations for postsecondary schools, which the AGO had described as broad and counterproductive, among other things. NMC chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said yesterday that the regents have tasked their legal counsel, Jesus C. Borja, to draft the board's official response to assistant attorney general Alan J. Barak's memorandum regarding the proposed regulations. "[The memorandum] was a little disconcerting because [the AGO] used a couple of languages calling our policy arbitrary and capricious. But we are a very gracious board in terms of accepting constructive criticism or feedback," King-Hinds said. "I don't want to get into a feud with the AG regarding our policy. Rather, I would like us to sit down and have the opportunity to discuss [the AG's] concerns."

Apr. 8, 2006

'Pass budget first before any other acts'
A Saipan senator has introduced legislation that would hold off any more legislative actions until a new budget is passed. Democratic Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan authored Senate Bill 15-42 to prohibit the Legislature from addressing other matters until it has passed a balanced budget. This comes in support of a call made by Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona for the Legislature to first pass a fiscally responsible budget before entertaining a bill that would reduce government wages by 10 percent.

MVA withholds decision on China offices
The Marianas Visitors Authority board has postponed any decisions regarding the soon-to-expire service contracts for three MVA offices in China. The MVA said the contracts of all four China offices, including one in Hong Kong, are expiring on April 30. The board earlier decided not to renew the contract of the Hong Kong office due to almost non-existent tourist arrivals from Hong Kong. Continental Airlines dropped Saipan from its Guam-Hong Kong route effective last November due to poor traffic. MVA said it received seven proposals to service MVA offices in China, which are located in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT)
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-13

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work entails providing maintenance services for a period of two (2) years for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the Scope of Work and Evaluation Factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Thursday, March 14, 2013. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for this project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Monday, APRIL 15, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following factors: (1) price, (2) relevant experience, (3) sufficiency of workers, (4) most recent financial statement and (5) insurance requirements.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the Scope of Work at the Office of the Executive Director.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 25, 2013 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project which will be followed by a walk-through of the Air Traffic Control Tower facility. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670) 234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-proposal conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offer or due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract. This RFP does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for service.

Offerors will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Proposals received after the aforementioned submission date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB13-GOV-100

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Drill Rig on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project Scope of Work and Proposal Forms will be available on or after **April 8, 2013** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 AM**, on **April 19, 2013**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:00 PM on **April 18, 2013**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-205. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB13-GOV-100**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM local time **May 8, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 PM local time **May 8, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 8, 2013**, and must be received by **May 17, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 PM local time, **May 20, 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 PM local time on **May 8, 2013**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

CNMI Water Task Force

INVITATION FOR BIDS

IFB13-GOV-087

Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **March 11, 2013**.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **March 22, 2013**, at the CNMI Water Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, March 21, 2013**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked **"IFB13-GOV-087"**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m.** local time, **April 10, 2013**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m.** local time, **April 10, 2013,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **April 10, 2013**, and must be received no later than **April 19, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **April 22. 2013**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **April 10, 2013**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **ELOY S. INOS**
Governor

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-017

Supply and Delivery of Materials and Tools for CUC Water Well Upgrade Project

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water well upgrade project in Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Supply and delivery of materials and tools for CUC water wells upgrade project, Obyan and Koblerville, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Form. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 8, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org and Robert Malate, Water/Wastewater, Engineer via email robert.malate@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 69

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

North Korea threat screams for diplomacy

The threats from Kim Jong Un, North Korea's young, untested leader, are extreme even by the paranoid standards of the dynastic dictatorship that has led the country since 1945.

Kim's bellicosity is likely intended to consolidate domestic political and military standing, as well as to extricate concessions from a wary, weary global community. Even so, a military miscalculation could plunge the region into war. The global community must take the threats seriously and apply maximum pressure on North Korea to defuse the crisis.

Kim has stated that the two Koreas had reverted to a "state of war" and has severed military "hot lines" with South Korea. He hasn't stopped with South Korea, however: He has directly threatened the American mainland and U.S. military bases in Japan and Guam.

Most gravely, in February North Korea conducted its third nuclear test. That provocation triggered the United Nations Security Council to impose further economic sanctions. It's significant that China, North Korea's only ostensible ally, agreed to the sanctions. This suggests that even Beijing is tiring of Pyongyang's destabilizing provocations. But it also seems to suggest that China fears a refugee crisis, or U.S. bases on its border, more than it fears Kim's reckless, repressive regime continuing to lurch the region into crises.

For their parts, South Korea and the United States have been unusually public with their responses.

South Korea, which also has a new, untested leader, has made it clear it won't ignore North Korean aggression. Addressing South Korean generals, President Park Geun-hye stated that, "If the North attempts any provocation against our people and country, you must respond strongly at the first contact with them without any political consideration."

The United States has been conducting joint exercises with the South Korean military that have included a very public display of nuclear-capable B-2 bombers, as well as B-52 bombers and stealth fighter jets. Additional naval vessels have also been deployed.

This public posture shouldn't suggest that a diplomatic solution still isn't being sought, South Korean and U.S. diplomats suggested in a recent meeting with an editorial writer. South Korea's new government seeks to emphasize "trust-based relations on the Korean peninsula. So what we would eventually like is for the North Koreans to stop the aggressions so we can engage them," said Choi Dayoun, second secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Washington.

The desire for diplomatic engagement was echoed by Heather L. Dresser, Korea desk officer at the State Department. "Our overall objective regarding North Korea has not changed: It involves denuclearization of the peninsula on a peaceful basis," she said.

That won't be easy. On Thursday, North Korea reportedly moved a missile closer to its east coast. Earlier, it announced that it will restart a reactor that had gone dark as part of a 2007 disarmament deal. That followed a weekend statement from North Korea that its nuclear weapons "are neither a political bargaining chip nor a thing for economic dealings."

But eventually they must be just that. Even the unpredictable Kim can predict that if he ever deployed a nuclear weapon, it would result in the end of his regime.

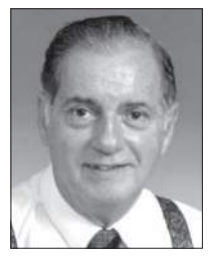
Yet North Korea need not use a nuclear weapon to attack. It could use conventional missiles against Seoul, and maybe even

See KOREA on Next Page

We need to increase our dwindling population

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



One subject I never hear discussed is about the great amount of people that have left and daily leaving the CNMI to live elsewhere. We never discuss the effect this has had on our economic life. After doing a bit of research on this matter, I strongly suggest that we must study how to increase our population to a point where our economy will grow. Size of population has much to do with a community's development. Let's look at some statistics.

Saipan's population has decreased by 22.7 percent or by 14,172 individuals from 62,392 in the year 2000 to 48,220 in 2010 and is still dipping. People are leaving almost daily.

Tinian has dipped by 11.4 percent or 404 individuals from 3,540 in 2000 to 3,136 in 2010. Rota dipped from 3,283 in the year 2000 by 23 percent or less 756 individuals. Its current population is 2,527 individuals.

In summary, the CNMI population has shrunk by 22.2 percent or by 15,338 people in a 10-year period according to the U.S. Census Bureau. We dropped from a population of about 69,221 to about 53,883 people. The above number of population includes about 12,000 non-resident workers. However we have lost more of our people since the last census in 2010. Somewhere I read that there are about 135,000 Chamorro living in the United States.

While our population has been declining, our food stamp recipients have increased greatly to about 10,000 plus and growing! This means about 19 percent or more of our people are on welfare.

As a result of people leaving our beloved islands, there are many deserted houses; for example, Kagman, Koberville, and other areas. As we drive around the island, we notice the many deserted stores, warehouses, and even hotels. Stores are not selling much. Restaurants are empty. It is increasingly more difficult to operate a business in a dwindling population. Are we slowly becoming a ghost town? Why are so many people running away?

It seems paradoxical to me that while we are trying to encourage more tourists to visit our beautiful islands and are seeking investors to create new business opportunities in the CNMI, our local people are running away to seek better opportunities elsewhere. Add the number of off- island college students who do not return to help create a prosperous economy, and add the yearly high school graduates who also leave—the problem keeps growing. What has happened? What are the main reasons our people are deserting the islands? How did we sink so low? How can correct this situation?

Yes, there are ways we can reverse this trend but it will take time, determination, and strong decisions. But I feel confident that we can and will improve our situation.

Our new governor, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, has already made several major strides in the right direction. Currently he is busy reviewing past performances of all Cabinet member and department heads. He has also become very visible and accessible to everybody. Given a few more months we will begin to see major improvements. I am totally rooting for him. Let us support him by backing what he is doing to clean our house that had become cluttered and full of favoritism. May God bless and give Governor Inos the wisdom and courage to succeed. He truly is paving a great beginning to our road to prosperity.

The current Legislature is also working very hard to study the weaknesses that have befallen us during our past years. They are diligently working in close harmony to improve our society. More power to them!

We should be thankful to the Speaker of the House and his allies who braved great odds to successfully challenge the previous corrupt regime. A sincere thank you and more power to you all in the future. A splendid beginning to a new and prosperous CNMI. All of this is totally refreshing after so many years of corruption and arrogance by our former governor.

Now that our government is being straightened out, we must begin to examine what we can do to improve our economy. Many ideas are being suggested, but I feel there is one idea that has not been discussed. We need people to come and reside in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. **WE NEED TO INCREASE OUR POPULATION!** We must induce people to come and live in our islands, not as tourists, but residents!

While the CNMI's population was declining, Guam grew in population from 154,805 in 2000 to about 163,000 today. Meanwhile its tourist market is about 1,300,000. Any wonder that Guam is booming?

As I mentioned above, our current population is only about 53,883 or even less. We have a small population. We need people to come and reside here. Imagine a population of say 90,000 plus residents. Stores would be busy, people would be employed to service the population, our utility bills would be lower because costs would be spread over a greater number, a larger domestic market, more tax money, and other benefits. Money would flow through our economy.

We have two basic assets which we must explore further that will spur our economy. Both of these two assets will add to the beauty and value of our islands. One is agriculture which can become a profitable industry when done properly. We have a huge market in Guam and the military. This we have discussed before.

But the second asset has a greater potential if we fully explore it. We have vacant land that can be developed for retirement homes for elderly people from our surrounding Asian countries such as Japan, China, and Korea. Yes, think about it. Thousands of people can come and live here and enjoy our beautiful weather year-round. Because we are only a few hours away, relatives can come to visit frequently.

Imagine about 30,000 plus retirees living in Saipan, another 15,000 in Tinian and another 15,000 in Rota. Our vacant houses will be rented to these people, our stores will be busy, money will circulate throughout the community and investors will want to invest in a community of a fairly large population. Have the retirees pay local taxes as we all have to. Think of the increased tax benefits. There are many other benefits that we can surely add to my list above.

We would have to create a retirees' visa permitting them to live here. This should definitely be checked into immediately. The visa shouldn't have to be an E-5 which requires a great amount of money. But a simple retirees' visa. None of the retirees would be allowed to work. Would one of our Legislators please check into the practically of this?

Yes, increasing our tourist market is great and we should definitely continue pursuing this, but we need a larger resident population if we are going to be a stable community. More tourists will certainly help but a huge amount of retirees living in the CNMI will create a more solid foundation for prosperity.

Yes, increasing food stamp money to our citizens will add some money in our community, but what happens to the people who keep receiving this benefit over the years? They will have been robbed of any desire to work and self-dignity. As a result we will become a larger welfare state and have even more people leave our islands. Is that the destiny of the CNMI—to become a welfare state and a ghost town?

When I visited Mexico and the Philippines, I was constantly reminded by the citizens: "We either work or we starve. We don't have food stamps." This easily explains why so many Mexicans immigrate to the United State. This also explains why so many Filipinos want to remain here to work.

Let us set up retirement communities and solicit retirees to move here to enjoy their twilight years. Imagine with so many people living here how we will prosper. In the research I have done on this subject, I have found no negative criticism when done properly. On a personal basis, my own sister is living in a retirement community in Virginia and is enjoying it especially after her husband passed away.

Discuss this concept among your friends, the Legislature and the governor and see if is viable. Increasing our population can jumpstart and revitalize our economy. Isn't it worth a bit of study and discussion?

Have a great week and don't forget to SMILE! A giant SMILE makes two people happy—the giver and the receiver. Go for it!

Kimchee spring

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The statement from Pyongyang reported in the Associated Press: "We formally inform the White House and Pentagon that the ever-escalating U.S. hostile policy toward the DPRK and its reckless nuclear threat will be smashed by the strong will of all the united service personnel and people and cutting-edge smaller, lighter and diversified nuclear strike means... The U.S. had better ponder over the prevailing grave situation."

Two of my sixth grade students at San Vicente Elementary School absented themselves from class some six/eight years ago on a Monday morning because their parents wanted them to stay home in case the North Koreans bombed Guam.

We resided in the early '80s in the Marshall Islands where the U.S. Navy keeps a missile base (on the California day zone though located across the international dateline) and in Guam where the Anderson Air Base flew its birds in the '70s to Vietnam via the Philippines. The Northern Mariana Islands, former CIA covert operation center and training ground to subvert "unfriendly" regimes had by the mid-'70s veered away from the Micronesian pack that were talking independence from or in compact of free association with the United States, Trustee to the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific.

The Marshalls and Palau worked out an independent relationship while the Caroline Islands went the compact of free association route as the FSM. The Northern Marianas declared itself in covenant with the U.S. as a Commonwealth in 1976. President Reagan unilaterally formalized that covenant when he declared the islands American in 1986. The UN dissolved the Trust Territory in 1994.

From Pearl Harbor to Manila Bay, the American presence in the region historically is military heavy to protect "national interest." American youth is encouraged to itch moving west! Our colonial experience in the Philippines is high theatre and low comedy; we patronized a people to become brown Americans.

Had some of our compatriots their way, Douglas MacArthur would have marched across the Yalu River and trigger happy Curtis LeMay would have been glad to drop the atomic bomb on Mao Zedong's China. Calmer heads prevailed but the price we paid for keeping the Western Pacific waters American involves scattered military installations and visible presence in Hawaii, Wake Island, A. Samoa, the Marshalls, Guam, Northern Marianas, Okinawa, the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and the flotilla of the 7th Fleet.

Meanwhile, North Korea launched a Jurche (self-reliance) ethos to maintain it in being, producing grain to put a smile on the Russian vodka, and keeping the train route chugging to Mudanjiang in the old Korea (Kogoryo) now in China. We in the U.S. in turn insisted on keeping south of the 38th parallel a free market economy making Seoul a branch of the Pentagon and Wall Street.

I remember a Christian evangelical missionary in Korea advising me to get all my savings out and deposit it in SoKor as its value would double in three years! Along with the Methodists and Presbyterians who imbued 30 percent of the local populace with a radical messianic complex, we stationed fully armed grunts (30,000 remaining in the last count) on SoCal lifestyle, made a roll of the dice available at Walker Hill, and if lucky, paid a barely discernable kimchee aroma a tumble on the hay.

After Japan was turned into America's factory, we followed it up with South Korea, wanted to do the same with Southeast Asia but was thwarted by Vietnam; Indonesia and Malaysia said, "thank you, but no, thank you," and we remain resilient in the Philippines. Then, in the last 10 years, we took Deng Xiaoping at his word. WalMart filled up its shelves with Made in China products.

North Korea stayed stolid in a sea of belligerence, an unfriendly U.S. foreign policy of containment, and the ever-present reminder of the U.S. military command ruling it over their siblings in the south, and all throughout the American Western Pacific. Annually, the U.S. and SoKor forces conduct joint-military exercises, and keep spy missions at the edge of the 12-mile NoKor sovereign territory. The latest were two stealth fighters on the peninsula's radars capable of carrying nuclear megatons.

So, one more time: who is the aggressor in this scenario?

Pyongyang has never hesitated to drum up the rhetoric of retaliation should the U.S.-SoKor forces ever comes close to kimchee-whiffing distance. When they did, NoKor retaliated, either through brutish boom-boom on a destroyer or an island, or by rigging the felt tables in Macau and the ledgers of their banking system. Which only makes the merchants of death happy. It keeps 50 percent of the U.S. federal budget on military related expense; expenditures on armaments remains a solid growth industry.

The news is out, Asia has surpassed EU and NATO on military spending. On all sides of the equation, the arsenal is growing. Guess who is happy now? I developed a taste for kimchee with my bulgoggi, and I do not care if the Kims come to Dimsum. We draw the line on Haliburton!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A productive, accountable, and transparent government

Governor Inos gave the people "two" sentences of lip service to justify his refusal to consider the transfer, not purchase, of the *Susitna*. Inos said even if the ice-breaking vessel is given free of charge, there would still be costs associated with bringing the ferry boat named M/V *Susitna* to the CNMI, maintenance and operational costs, and dry-docking. Moreover, with the size and type of the 200-foot vessel the CNMI has to build terminals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to accommodate it. But the people did not only voted for impeachment, they voted for a new productive, accountable, and transparent government, not a government that continues Fitial's desires to kill good projects and cover up potential progress to institute casinos on Saipan. The people need and deserve better accountability and transparency on the Susitna.

The article about the *Susitna* using 375 gallons per hour was misleading based on a "test" during sea trials against a strong headwind at full throttle. But it was published just to try and kill the *Susitna* but it is a great example of government misleading the people! The fuel consumption which is 64 gal/hour at 10 knots…roughly similar to the AMHS ship mentioned that consumes 55 gallons, according to Lewis Madden, co-designer of the *Susitna* and the person who documented it in the sea trials. But when our Transportation secretary said in this past Friday's meeting on the ferry project that he could not find the grants I knew there was some skullduggery afoot because I told him and Mr. Stump where to find them. The people are being misled and even lied to about the *Susitna* so please go to the following website for the truth:http://www.matsugov.us/finance/borough-contract-opportunities/cat_view/73-contract-opportunities/55-open-bids-proposals/561-13-090s-sale-of-the-mv-susitna

First and foremost, the *Susitna* is free with a grant and heaven sent! Second, much of the associated cost with brining the ferry, the maintenance and operating cost are supplemented by federal grants and the investor owners of the existing casinos. Third, the *Susitna* is an omnivore that can pull right up to the beach for access and does not need extravagant terminals. Furthermore, the existing facilities previously used by the Tinian ferry can be used for the Saipan to Tinian route while the Rota casino and terminal are being built—the governor is just making up lip service excuses.

The CNMI got a blessing when the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (Township) was stuck with a ferry they could not use from events that were beyond their control when the famous "Bridge to Nowhere" failed to become a reality in Alaska. Unlike the misleading news reports that were clearly designed to kill the hope of getting a ferry, the *Susitna* is a great deal for the CNMI because the Dept. of the Navy through the Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) established four different grants that automatically accompanied the transfer of the ferry to the Susitna Borough (a grant to convert the *Susitna* to public transportation, to purchase, to subsidize the cost of operations, and to train local people to operate the *Susitna*). The federal government did not leave any stone unturned and covered all the bases for the recipient of the *Susitna* to be successful with their public service ferry operation. If the governor actually needs a feasibility study to tell him we need a Ferry system, then you know we are in trouble because he should be instituting a cost and demand study to tell us how to make the *Susitna* doable, not rejecting it and making up phony excuses that don't justify a rejection.

But the truth of the matter is, I told readers seven years ago almost to the date of this past election that the powers that be would never stop until they brought us to our knees and forced casinos down our throats. We may have changed our leadership but it is clear we are still on the same course set by former governor Fitial—a course for casinos that will surely take us away from getting a ferry system. I stuck it out trying to help governor Fitial with the election of Dr. Acha because I believed in her and I also didn't want the governor to kill the *Susitna* because I knew the ferry presented a counterproductive challenge to his desire for casinos on Saipan. I hope people can appreciate that I did stick with the idea to create a ferry industry or the *Susitna* and the idea for a ferry industry would have died long ago because a ferry service to Tinian and Rota that would bring tourists from Guam and Saipan to these islands would all but kill any desire or need for casinos on Saipan—so the real problem is Saipan casinos and politics, not the cost of the *Susitna* and the infrastructure. In fact, I feel confident in saying that if the investors at these hundred million dollar casinos on Tinian and Rota were given a chance, they would be glad to help bring the ferry out here and build a terminal for the ferry service to bring customers given the immense potential to improve their operation.

The CNMI is a predominantly Christian society, which is why I must admire thank and say kudos to the *Variety* for showing our leaders in Mass on the front page and declaring casinos for the people as being our only salvation—sad. I pray our leaders got the subliminal message of how "hypocritical" they look being in Mass and professing casinos as our ONLY salvation because God is in this TOO! It really looks bad and even ugly when the people have clearly said NO to casinos. It was a very disrespectful move by our newly appointed, not elected, governor who may have just earned his first strike as governor in less than 90 days. The casino may offer run-of-the-mill jobs but we need industries to be offering careers to keep our youth from leaving time they graduate—a ferry industry will create high paying careers. The casinos also can't be built in time to save the Fund but the ferry service can! But I can't put the accountability for the *Susitna* on the lieutenant governor, bless his heart, as he is truly caught between a rock and a hard place but I will pray for him being stuck with a partner not of his choosing who is already messing up big time.

All the CNMI has to do is contact the Susitna Borough and show a serious interest, apply for the grants, work with the potential investors to get the vessel here and dry-dock it until we were ready if the governor thinks we are not ready—at least we would have a free ferry worth $80 million that will still be worth millions in just scrap. Given the tourism committee has already drafted a resolution asking the governor to explore the possibility of purchasing the *Susitna* I am now calling on this committee to issue the resolution and even conduct an emergency oversight hearing given the time sensitive nature of the matter. One people, one direction for a productive, accountable, and transparent government

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman

KOREA

From Page 10

Japan. And the North has shown a willingness to engage in asymmetrical warfare. It's widely assumed the country was behind a recent cyberattack on South Korean banks and broadcasters.

U.S. leaders have little intelligence on Kim. (Dennis Rodman may have had the most face time.) And they have few good choices.

"Our options are seriously limited here," said Sherry Gray, coordinator of the global policy area at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. "You try to get the North Koreans to the table; you try to get the rhetoric down; you try to open dialogue; you try to solidify your allies, and you try to get China engaged."

Indeed, China is the one nation that may be able to reverse Kim's course and get Pyongyang to re-engage in the six-party talks involving North and South Korea, the United States, Japan, China and Russia. Or, since this crisis has global implications, take up U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on his Tuesday call for negotiations. One of Kim's clear goals seems to be bilateral dialogue with the United States, but a multilateral approach is needed to contain the North's nuclear ambitions.

Militarily, U.S. forces must be prepared to defend American interests and allies. This crisis also underscores the benefits of continually developing an effective missile-shield defense system.

Most important, while it's important to show resolve, the United States and South Korea need to continue to be strategic and not let Kim's provocations spark a dangerous confrontation.

(c)2013 Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly clear with a slight chance of showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°

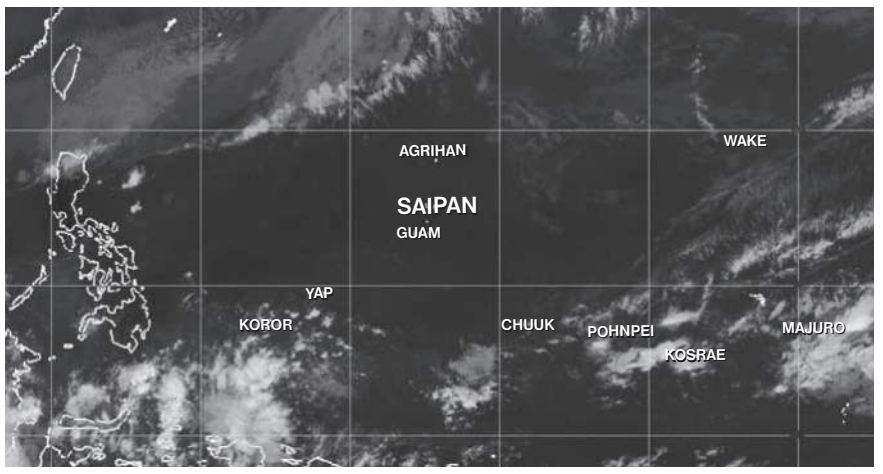
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲85	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼81
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼81
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲68	▼61
Beijing	Windy	▲55	▼39
Hong Kong	Showers	▲70	▼69
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲45	▼37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲92	▼82
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼52
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼68
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼49
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼51
Paris	Showers	▲50	▼39
Pusan	Windy	▲62	▼49
Rome	Cloudy	▲58	▼49
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼52
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼41
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼51
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An unseasonal strong cold front extends southwestward from north of Iwo To island through 25N138E to beyond 130E at 19N. Extensive cloudiness with widespread rain and a few thunderstorms are present along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A shear line curves westward from south of Midway Island through 23N180 passing just north of Wake Island at 20N167E to finally end southwest of Minami Tori Shima at 20N150E. Patchy clouds with scattered showers are found along and up to 180 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough runs northward from 1N138E to 8N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen west of the trough axis or southwest of Koror between the equator and 6N from 130E to 136E. A pronounced upper-level trough extends northeastward from south of Koror at EQ133E passes southeast of Guam at 12N148E to beyond 25N at 173E. Divergent winds southeast of this trough are enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near a few trade-wind disturbances in three areas. The first area is southwest of Chuuk between 2N and 4N from 145E to 150E. The second one is near Pohnpei, Kosrae and Kwajalein between 4N and 9N from 156E to 168E. The third one is over Majuro, Butaritari and Tarawa Atolls within 250 miles of a line from 7N171E to 2N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:45 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:36 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:17 AM	4:39 PM
Tuesday	4:59 AM	5:31 PM
Wednesday	5:40 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	7:14 PM
Friday	7:06 AM	8:05 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Public urged to mark National Library week

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is inviting the community to join libraries across the nation to mark National Library Week on April 14 to 20.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association every April with the purpose of highlighting the value of libraries which, nowadays, serve more than repositories for books and other resources.

"Often the hearts of their communities, campuses or schools, libraries are deeply committed to the places where their patrons live, work, and study. Libraries are trusted places where everyone in the community can gather to reconnect and reengage with each other to enrich and shape the community and address local issues," said library associate Erlinda Naputi.

The week-long celebration also underscores the importance of librarians and library workers. Naputi said librarians work with elected officials, small business owners, students and the public at large to discover what their communities' needs are and meet them.

JKPL, the Commonwealth's state public library, and public libraries on Tinian and Rota provide its patrons with free internet access, basic computer lessons, books, magazines, DVD, and offers programs such as Read Aloud & Craft, Movie Day, and other cultural activities.

"Service to the community has always been the focus of the library. While this aspect has never changed, libraries have grown and evolved in how they provide for the needs of every member of their community," emphasized Naputi.

To celebrate National Library Week, JKPL has arranged for a series of activities throughout the week, including beautification and tree planting from 2pm to 4pm on April 13, book donation from Kishiwada North Rotary Clubo f Japan, amnesty week, library card replacement sign up day to replace lost library cards free of charge on April 16, Movie Day, open house and library tour.

Additionally, the JKPL Information Technology Center will observe for the first time Teen Tech Week which would serve as a venue to present ideas of current technology and how it is being used at the public library.

Throughout the week, ITC will showcase online webcast presentations of innovative uses of technology and how they apply to science, environment, education, and communities worldwide.

From April 16 to 20, ITC staffers will provide tech tours of its facility and features, including hands-on sessions using a unique operating system and online resources that are free; walk-in sessions on how to use EBSCO, an online database that provides a wealth of information from different news and magazine articles to reference materials for research; and tips and tricks to using and maintaining one's computer effectively. Patrons who are interested to learn about their computers are encouraged to bring their Windows laptop to learn how to use it more efficiently.

For more information, visit JKPL in Susupe from Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 6pm and on Saturday from 9am to 4pm; log on to www.cnmilibrary.com or call 235-7322 or 7316.

ARC DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, American Red Cross Emergency services director J.D. Tenorio, regional executive director John Hirsh, and Walkathon co-chair Larry Lee receive a $3,000 check from Bank of Guam's CNMI regional manager Marcie Tomokane, credit officer Yvonne Reyes, and branch manager Larry Philip on Friday, April 5, at the BoG branch office in Garapan. The Walkathon, scheduled for April 13, is expected to draw close to 3,000 participants from public and private schools, businesses and government agencies.

Public scoping meetings for proposed military use of Tinian, Pagan

The newly chartered Northern Marianas Descent Corp. announces and invites all Northern Marianas Descent individuals and residents to attend and participate in the upcoming series of important public scoping meetings to solicit valuable public comments and feedback on the proposed U.S. military uses of Tinian and Pagan for military warfare combat training exercises as part of the U.S. military's Pacific Pivot Military Realignment plans.

The U.S. military invites you to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act process. The U.S. military is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement to assess the potential effects of the proposed action to improve existing and develop new live-fire military training areas on Tinian and Pagan.

Public involvement is a fundamental part of the EIS/OEIS development, and the U.S. military wants and appreciates your comments. Scoping comments on the EIS/OEIS will be accepted throughout the scoping period, March 14 through April 29, 2013 Chamorro Standard Time (ChST). All comments will be reviewed for consideration in the Draft EIS/OEIS and as appropriate.You can also attend one of the open house-style public scoping meetings at the locations and times shown below:

Saipan

- Wednesday, April 10, 5pm-8pm, Dandan Elementary School Cafeteria Dandan
- Friday, April 12, 5pm-8pm, Carolinian Utt Garapan, Saipan

Tinian

- Thursday, April 11, 4pm to 7pm, Tinian Gym San Jose

At these meetings, you are encouraged to: View a slide presentation about the proposed action; learn more about the National Environmental Policy Act process and review proposed action posters and handouts; ask questions and discuss the proposed action with U.S. military representatives; and submit comments.

NMDC will help:

- Educate residents on proposed Combined Unit Military Training Activities on Pagan Island.
- Share preliminary Areas of Particular Concern from Local Regulatory Agencies.
- Provide overview of warfare functional areas of specific types of Military Activities on Pagan.

Types of military activities being proposed NMDC is concerned about:

- Continuous and uninterrupted training schedule for U.S. Forces and U.S. Allies
- Combined-Level Training of entire island for military activities
- Will the proposed U.S. military actions lead to closure of Pagan or closure of the entire NMI archipelago?
- Will there be resettlement or re-development in the Northern Islands?
- Will Public Law 16-50 be ever implemented?
- Will the Passenger Cruise Ship dock in Pagan in 2014?
- Will Eco-tourism ever reach and feature the unmatched natural beauty of Pagan?
- What about the Pagan fishing community?
- What about NMC-CREES Agricultural Development Master Plan?
- What will happen to Pagan's fresh water lake?
- What will happen to the teeming fishing communities?
- What will happen to our culture and history in the Northern Islands?
- Will Pagan be a Puerto Rico Dump after the military uses it? ***(PR)***

Lawmaker calls on McCain to help with Guam buildup phased-in approach

Senator Rory J. Respicio wrote to U.S. Senator John S. McCain requesting his assistance on a phased-in approach for the Guam Buildup.

Senator McCain is a member of the U.S. Armed Services Committee and has been a vocal critic of the process and funding of the Guam Buildup.

Respicio

Respicio noted in his letter that a missile defense system for Guam was part of the original buildup plan, but was eventually cancelled. Now, due to the threats from North Korea, the issue of a missile defense system has been resurrected and a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System (THAAD) is on its way to Guam to protect our island.

"I am seeking your support to move the Guam Military Buildup forward in a similar fashion: phasing-in the more simple and necessary projects, as opposed to waiting for a Master Plan that is complete down to its last detail," said Respicio, who is the chairman of the Committee on Rules; Federal, Foreign, & Micronesian Affairs; Human & Natural Resources; and Election Reform. "It is necessary that the Guam Military Buildup components be put in place quickly, and could independently be prioritized, with the final, more complex projects being set for sometime in the near future."

Senator Respicio also expressed his reservations about the "less-than-speedy pace" of the Master Plan being put together by the Department of Defense and asked McCain for his assistance in determining the status of the plan.

A copy of the letter is attached. For more information please call the Office of Senator Rory J. Respicio at 472-7679. ***(PR)***

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- ELLEN S. PITEG, Defendant. : CIVIL ACTION : NO. 11-0043

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 15, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 547, situated in Kagman III, Phase I, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 800 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 11, dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4179, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
The Law Offices Of Michael A. White, LLC
Post Office Box 5222
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- ALBERT I. REMOKET and CONSOLACION I. REMOKET, Defendants. : CIVIL ACTION : NO. 11-0142

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 10, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 59, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 968 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1900, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of March, 2013:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiffs, -v- ALEINA D. HOFSCHNEIDER, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER, and LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER, Defendants. CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0505

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot 005 I 547, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered on May 14, 1982, as Document No. 14232, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and (b) Lot 1734 NEW-7-5 (formerly part of Lot 1734 NEW-3, which was part of original Lot 1734, T.D. 661), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2017/90, the original of which was recorded on November 15, 1989, as Document No. 89-3805, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 3, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of March, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. VICENTE E. SANTOS and JOSEPHINE F. SANTOS, Defendants. Civil Action No. 10-0294

NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 13th day of June, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **29th day of April, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 443, containing an area of 780 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 09 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4176, dated December 3, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer of his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the tile and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 8th day of March, 2013.

/s/Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Business

Dim labor report shows US added just 88K jobs

AP

This Friday, March 29, 2013, photo, shows a help wanted sign in front of a restaurant in Richmond, Va.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A streak of robust job growth came to a halt in March, signaling that U.S. employers may have grown cautious in a fragile economy.

The gain of 88,000 jobs was the smallest in nine months. Even a decline in unemployment to a four-year low of 7.6 percent was nothing to cheer: It fell only because more people stopped looking for work and were no longer counted as unemployed.

Friday's weak jobs report from the Labor Department caught analysts by surprise and served as a reminder that the economic recovery is still slow, nearly four years after the Great Recession ended.

"This is not a good report through and through," Dan Greenhaus, chief economic strategist at brokerage firm BTIG, said in a note to clients.

Economists had no single explanation for why hiring weakened so sharply and broadly—from retailers and manufacturers to electronics and building materials companies. Some said deep government spending cuts that began taking effect March 1 might have contributed to the slowdown, along with higher Social Security taxes. Others raised the possibility that last month was just a pause in an improving job market.

Whatever the reasons, slower job growth will extend the Federal Reserve's policy of keeping borrowing costs at record lows.

March's job gain was less than half the average of 196,000 jobs in the previous six months, raising the prospect that for the fourth straight spring, the economy and hiring could show strength early in the year, only to weaken later. Some economists say weak hiring may persist into summer before rebounding by fall.

The percentage of working-age Americans with a job or looking for one fell to 63.3 percent in March, the lowest such figure in nearly 34 years.

Stocks plummeted after the report but narrowed their losses later in the day. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down about 41 points. Broader indexes also declined.

The Labor Department uses a survey of mostly large businesses and government agencies to determine how many jobs are added or lost each month. That's the survey that produced the gain of 88,000 jobs for March.

The government uses a separate survey of households to calculate the unemployment rate. It counted 290,000 fewer people as unemployed—not because they found a job but because they stopped looking for one.

The percentage of working-age adults with a job or looking for one is a figure that economists call the participation rate. It's the lowest since 1979. Normally during an economic recovery, an expanding economy lures job seekers back into the labor market. But this time, many have stayed on the sidelines, and more have joined them.

Longer-term trends have helped keep the participation rate down. The baby boomers have begun to retire. The share of men 20 and older in the labor force has dropped as manufacturing has shrunk.

After expanding from the early 1950s through the mid-1990s, the share of women working or looking for work has plateaued. Fewer teenagers are working. And some people who have left the job market are getting by on government aid, particularly Social Security's program for the disabled.

Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the liberal Economic Policy Institute, said the labor force participation among those ages 25 to 54—"prime age" workers—has dropped to 81.1 percent. It hasn't been lower since 1984.

Gary Burtless, senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution, noted that some Americans have likely stopped looking for work because their unemployment benefits have run out. People must be looking for a job to qualify for unemployment benefits.

Online translation on the rise, changing lives

By MARTHA MENDOZA
AP NATIONAL WRITER

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—You might use Google Translate to read a hard-to-find Manga comic book or to decipher an obscure recipe for authentic Polish blintzes. Or, like Phillip and Niki Smith in rural Mississippi, you could use it to rescue a Chinese orphan and fall in love at the same time.

Google is now doing a record billion translations on any given day, as much text as you'd find in 1 million books for everything from understanding school lunch menus to gathering national security intelligence. It translates in 65 languages, from Afrikaans to Yiddish, and can be used on websites, with speech recognition and as an app on mobile phones even if there is no connection.

While the technology is exponentially evolving, Google's translation guru Franz Och's face lit up when he heard that the Smiths and their new daughter, 14-year-old Guan Ya, are settling into their new lives together this month communicating almost exclusively through Google Translate.

"All day long I look at algorithms, algorithms and algorithms," he said. "It is so rewarding to hear that it is touching lives."

In the Smiths' case, it changed theirs forever.

The Smiths, who already have three children, first spotted Guan Ya less than a year ago when Niki Smith was looking at photos of hard to place orphans online, offering simple prayers for them one by one. With three children of her own, including a 3-year-old daughter adopted from China, she had no intention of adding to her family.

Then she saw Guan Ya.

"She was just our daughter," said Smith of that chance Internet encounter nearly a year ago. "There was no doubt about it, from the first time we saw her on the Internet."

There were seemingly impossible obstacles to adopting the girl. Firstly, Guan Ya was months away from turning 14, the age at which Chinese law would make her ineligible for adoption. Not only could Guan Ya not speak English, she didn't speak at all.

Guan Ya is deaf.

Undeterred, the Smiths scrambled through the paperwork and home studies that are inherent to international adoptions. With support from both Chinese and U.S. authorities, they expedited the bureaucracy by running a flurry of emails and forms through online translators. And one day Niki Smith received an email from her daughter-to-be, an unintelligible jumble of Chinese characters.

Calif. DA says Toyota to pay $16M settlement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A $16 million settlement over the safety recall of Toyota vehicles that were at risk for unintended acceleration and braking issues was announced Friday by Orange County prosecutors and Toyota Motor Corp.

The suit was one of a flood of cases brought against the automaker after more than 14 million vehicles were recalled in 2009 and 2010—many of them still waiting to be heard or settled.

In the suit, Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas claimed deceptive business practices, alleging Toyota had concealed safety issues related to its floor mats and "sticky" gas pedal issues. The suit sought $2,500 per violation under California's consumer protection laws

Under the settlement, Toyota continues to deny all the claims made by the suit.

"Having addressed floor mat and `sticky pedal' issues with effective and durable solutions, we are gratified that Toyota vehicles are once again widely recognized as among the safest and most reliable on the road," Christopher P Reynolds, an attorney and vice president for Toyota, said in a statement.

In the past, the carmaker blamed driver error, faulty floor mats and stuck accelerator pedals for the problems.

A highway tragedy in suburban San Diego sparked the recalls and numerous lawsuits against the Japanese carmaker.

An off-duty California Highway Patrol officer and three family members were killed after he lost control of the car, a Toyota-built Lexus, in a grisly accident. The car reached speeds of more than 120 mph before it hit an SUV, launched off an embankment, rolled several times and burst into flames.

That case was settled for $10 million before similar cases were consolidated in federal court.

At the end of 2012, Toyota agreed to pay a $1 billion payout to settle claims from owners who said the value of their vehicles dropped after the recall.

In the Orange County case, half the $16 million will go to a gang reduction program and the other half will be used to pay the costs of the case and the pursuit of future economic crime cases.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Calif. governor looks to China for investments

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California Gov. Jerry Brown has designs on building some of the most expensive public works projects in the nation and wants to keep the state moving forward in its slow recovery from the recession. Where better to go searching for the money to further those interests than the world's second largest economy and a country that has piles of cash to invest around the globe? The governor of the most populous U.S. state heads to China next week to begin a weeklong trade mission that he hopes will produce investments on both sides of the Pacific. Brown will lead a delegation of business leaders in search of what he calls "plenty of billions." "They've got $400 billion or $500 billion they're going to invest abroad, so California's got to get a piece of that," Brown said in an interview last week ahead of his seven-day trip to China.

Pork found in Ikea's moose lasagna

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Ikea says it has withdrawn 17,000 portions of moose lasagna from its home furnishings stores in Europe after traces of pork were found in a batch tested in Belgium. Ikea spokeswoman Tina Kardum said the product had only been on sale for a month when it was pulled off the shelves on March 22. The company didn't announce the withdrawal publicly until Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet wrote about it Saturday. Kardum said the company found out Friday that a follow-up test in Belgium confirmed the lasagna contained 1.6 percent pork.

Nation

Source: US delays missile test as tensions rise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid mounting tensions with North Korea, the Pentagon has delayed an intercontinental ballistic missile test that had been planned for next week at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, a senior defense official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The official said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel decided to put off the long-planned Minuteman 3 test until sometime next month because of concerns the launch could be misinterpreted and exacerbate the Korean crisis. Hagel made the decision Friday, the official said.

The test was not connected to the ongoing U.S.-South Korean military exercises that have been going on in that region and have stoked North Korean anger and fueled an escalation in threatening actions and rhetoric.

North Korea's military warned earlier this week that it was authorized to attack the U.S. using "smaller, lighter and diversified" nuclear weapons. And South Korean officials say North Korea has moved at least one missile with "considerable range" to its east coast - possibly the untested Musudan missile, believed to have a range of 1,800 miles. U.S. officials have said the missile move suggests a North Korean launch could be imminent and thus fuels worries in the region.

Pyongyang's moves come on the heels of the North's nuclear test in February, and the launch in December of a long-range North Korean rocket that could potentially hit the continental U.S. Added to that is the uncertainty surrounding the intentions of North Korea's new young leader, Kim Jong Un.

In this Feb. 7, 2013 file photo, members of the 374th Airlift Wing of U.S. Air Force work on a C-130 aircraft during the Cope North military exercises at Andersen U.S. Air Force Base in Guam.

AP

Meanwhile, North Korea has been angered by increasing sanctions and ongoing U.S.-South Korean military exercises, which have included a broad show of force ranging from stealthy B-2 bombers and F-22 fighters to a wide array of ballistic missile defense-capable warships. The exercises are scheduled to continue through the end of the month.

This past week, the U.S. said two of the Navy's missile-defense ships were moved closer to the Korean peninsula, and a land-based system is being deployed to the Pacific territory of Guam later this month. The Pentagon last month announced longer-term plans to beef up its U.S.-based missile defenses.

While Washington is taking the North Korean threats seriously, U.S. leaders continue to say that they have seen no visible signs that the North is preparing for a large-scale attack.

The defense official, who was not authorized to speak publicly about the Minuteman 3 test delay and requested anonymity, said U.S. policy continues to support the building and testing of its nuclear deterrent capabilities. And the official said the launch was not put off because of any technical problems.

The globe-circling intercontinental ballistic missiles make up one of the three legs of America's nuclear arsenal. There are about 450 Minuteman 3 missiles based in underground silos in the north-central U.S. The other two legs of the nuclear arsenal are submarine-launched ballistic missiles and weapons launched from big bombers, such as the B-52 and the stealthy B-2.

The traditional rationale for the "nuclear triad" of weaponry is that it is essential to surviving any nuclear exchange.

Church: Pastor Rick Warren's son commits suicide

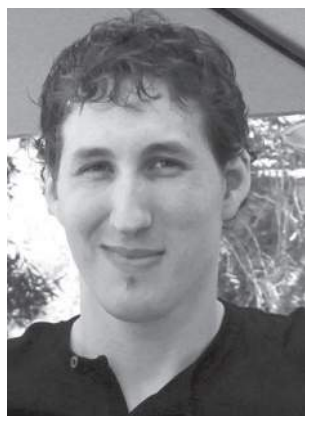
LAKE FOREST, Calif. (AP)—The 27-year-old son of popular evangelical Pastor Rick Warren has committed suicide at his Southern California home, Warren's church and authorities said on Saturday.

Matthew Warren struggled with mental illness, deep depression and suicidal thoughts throughout his life, Saddleback Valley Community Church said in a statement. His body was found in his Mission Viejo home Friday night, said Allison O'Neal, a supervising deputy coroner for Orange County. She declined to release the cause and manner of death pending an autopsy of the young man.

"Despite the best health care available, this was an illness that was never fully controlled and the emotional pain resulted in his decision to take his life," the church statement said.

Rick Warren, the author of the multimillion-selling book "The Purpose Driven Life," said in an email to church staff that he and his wife had enjoyed a fun Friday evening with their son. But their son then returned home to take his life in "a momentary wave of despair."

Over the years, Matthew Warren had been treated by America's best doctors, had received counseling and medication and been the recipient of numerous prayers from others, his father said.



AP

This undated photo provided by the Saddleback Valley Community Church shows Matthew Warren, the son of Pastor Rick Warren.

Sandy Hook families bring emotion to gun debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Bringing their emotional advocacy to the national gun debate, families of those killed in the Connecticut school shooting are appearing with President Barack Obama and walking the halls of Congress to plead for stricter regulations.

They already have helped push through the nation's most restrictive firearms law, which Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, D-Conn., signed Thursday.

With no lobbying background and fueled by the power of their emotions, a group of Sandy Hook Elementary School families can take credit for helping shape the measure as it moved through the state Legislature.

Now they're trying to do the same in Washington, where gun legislation is facing tough resistance. Congress is returning from spring break, and Newtown, Conn., families plan to spend the coming week on Capitol Hill.

Their goal of their personal appeals is to speak to every senator who has yet to express support for the gun legislation, and to show how the Dec. 14 shooting has affected their lives.

"I'm not a constitutional scholar and I'm not a Second Amendment specialist," David Wheeler, who lost his 6-year-old son, Benjamin, said in a telephone interview. "I don't know the ins and outs of gun policy but I know ...," his voice trailed off as a sob catches in his throat. "But I now know one of the things that no father should ever know. And in our system of representative government we have to use our voices."

The families of the 20 children and six staff members killed in the December shooting at Sandy Hook are a diverse group politically.

They include gun owners, and Democrats and Republicans. They don't always agree on gun policy.

One father—Mark Mattioli, who lost his 6-year-old son, James—attended a National Rifle Association news conference last week to endorse a proposal to train school staffers as armed security officers.

But relatives of nine victims have come together with a nonprofit group called Sandy Hook Promise to sign a letter sent Thursday to senators. It asks them to vote to expand background checks for gun purchases, strengthen laws against gun trafficking and ban ammunition magazines with more than 10 rounds.

Nicole Hockley wonders if her 6-year-old son, Dylan, might be alive if shooter Adam Lanza hadn't been able to carry 10 magazines that held 30 rounds each into the school that day.

Lanza was able to fire 154 shots during a four-minute rampage in the school. But he stopped shooting briefly in Dylan's classroom to reload, giving 11 children time to escape.

"They ran for their lives," Hockley said. "Dylan was not so fortunate. If there were lower capacity magazine clips, there's a chance Dylan would be here with me today."

She drives home the point on visits with lawmakers by handing out a photo card—the kind she might have made for a family holiday greeting—with three pictures of her son. The largest photo shows him wearing a Superman T-shirt. He's caught in a wide grin that brightens his whole face. "Honor his life," the card says under the dates, 3/8/06-12/14/12. "Stand with us for change. Now is the time."

ACROSS THE NATION

Nevada official's body found in river; 4 arrested

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A body believed to be that of Nevada's missing chief insurance examiner was found wrapped in a blanket and bound with duct tape Saturday in a river in Carson City, and four suspects were arrested in the case, authorities said. Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong said that while a positive identification and cause of death have not been officially established, investigators believe the body found by searchers in the Carson River is that of William McCune, who disappeared earlier this week. Authorities suspected foul play after finding evidence Thursday of a bloody, violent struggle in McCune's apartment in Carson City. Deputies were called to the apartment after the 62-year-old McCune failed to board a flight with a co-worker and other employees found no sign of him when they went to his residence.

Firefighter dies battling Philadelphia blaze

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A fire burned a fabric shop, upstairs apartments and a neighboring boutique Saturday evening, causing a partial roof collapse that killed a firefighter and injured a colleague who tried in vain to rescue him. Firefighters saluted as the body of 53-year-old Capt. Michael Goodwin was carried from the remnants of the burned building in the city's Fabric Row section. He was killed in a fall from the third floor roof to the second, Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers said at a news conference. The colleague who tried save him, 28-year-old Andrew Godlinski, was burned but is expected to survive, Ayers said.

Asia

Despite threats, risks temper Korea war tensions

TOKYO (AP)—As tensions rise on the Korean Peninsula, one thing remains certain: All sides have good reason to avoid an all-out war. The last one, six decades ago, killed an estimated 4 million people.

North Korea's leaders know that war would be suicidal. In the long run, they cannot expect to defeat the United States and successfully overrun South Korea. War would be horrific for the other side as well. South Korea could suffer staggering casualties. The U.S. would face a destabilized major ally, possible but unlikely nuclear or chemical weapons attacks on its forward-positioned bases, and dramatically increased tensions with North Korea's neighbor and Korean War ally, China.

Here's a look at the precarious balance of power that has kept the Korean Peninsula so close to conflict since the three-year war ended in 1953, and some of the strategic calculus behind why, despite the shrill rhetoric and seemingly reckless saber-rattling, leaders on both sides of the Demilitarized Zone have carefully avoided going back over the brink.

THE SEA OF FIRE

Even without nuclear weapons, North Korea has an ace in the hole. Most experts believe its claims to have enough conventional firepower from its artillery units to devastate the greater Seoul area, South Korea's bustling capital of 24 million. Such an attack would cause severe casualties—often estimated in the hundreds of thousands—in a very short period of time.

Many of these artillery batteries are already in place, dug in and very effectively camouflaged, which means that U.S. and South Korean forces cannot count on being able to take them out before they strike. Experts believe about 60 percent of North Korea's military assets are positioned relatively close to the Demilitarized Zone separating the countries.

North Korea's most threatening weapons are its 170 mm Koksan artillery guns, which are 14 meters long and can shoot conventional mortar ammunition 40 kilometers (25 miles). That's not quite enough to reach Seoul, which is 50 kilometers (30 miles) from the DMZ. But if they use rocket-assisted projectiles, the range increases to about 60 kilometers (37 miles). Chemical weapons fired from these guns could cause even greater mayhem.

North Korea experts Victor Cha and David Kang posted on the website of Foreign Policy magazine late last month that the North can fire 500,000 rounds of artillery on Seoul in the first hour of a conflict.

Even so, not everyone believes North Korea could make good on its "sea of fire" threats. Security expert Roger Cavazos, a former U.S. Army officer, wrote in a report for the Nautilus Institute last year that, among other things, North Korea's big guns have a high rate of firing duds, pose more of a threat to Seoul's less populated outer suburbs, and would be vulnerable to counterattack as soon as they start firing and reveal their location.

"North Korea occasionally threatens to "turn Seoul into a Sea of Fire," he wrote. "But can North Korea really do this? ... The short answer is they can't; but they can kill many tens of thousands of people, start a larger war and cause a tremendous amount of damage before ultimately losing their regime."

FIRST STRIKES, PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES

This is what both sides say concerns them the most.

North Korea says it is developing nuclear weapons and long-range missiles as a deterrent to keep the United States or South Korea from attacking it first. The reasoning is that Washington will not launch a pre-emptive strike if North Korea has a good chance of getting off an immediate—and devastating—response of its own.

Along with its artillery aimed at Seoul and other targets in South Korea, North Korea is developing the capacity to deploy missiles that are mobile, thus easier to move or hide. North Korea already has Rodong missiles that have—on paper at least—a range of about 1,300 kilometers (800 miles), enough to reach several U.S. military bases in Japan. Along with 28,000 troops in South Korea, the U.S. has 50,000 troops based in Japan.

North Korea is not believed to be capable of making a nuclear weapon small enough to fit on a long-range missile capable of hitting the United States. But physicist David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, believes it may be capable of mounting nuclear warheads on Rodongs. In any case, Pyongyang is continuing to pursue advancements, apparently out of the belief that it needs nuclear-tipped missiles capable of reaching the U.S. to have a credible deterrent.

The United States rejects the North's claim that such a deterrent is necessary, saying it does not intend to launch pre-emptive strikes against North Korea. At the same time, Washington has made it clear that it could.

During ongoing Foal Eagle military maneuvers in South Korea, two U.S. B-2 strategic stealth bombers, flying from their base in Missouri, conducted a mock bombing run on a South Korean range. The B-2 is capable of carrying nuclear weapons, precision bombs that could take out specific targets such as North Korean government buildings, and massive conventional bombs designed to penetrate deep into the ground to destroy North Korean tunnels and dug-in military positions. One big problem, however, is determining where the targets are.

Amid heightened tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons program in 1994, President Bill Clinton reportedly considered a pre-emptive strike, but decided the risks were too high.

CHINA'S DILEMMA

Without China, North Korea wouldn't exist. The Chinese fought alongside the North Koreans in the Korean War and have propped up Pyongyang with economic aid ever since.

Beijing has grown frustrated with Pyongyang, especially over its nuclear program. China and the U.S. worked together in drafting a U.N. resolution punishing the North for its Feb. 12 nuclear test.

But China still has valid reasons not to want the regime to suddenly collapse.

War in Korea would likely spark a massive exodus of North Korean civilians along its porous 1,300-kilometer (800-mile) border, which in turn could lead to a humanitarian crisis or unrest that the Chinese government would have to deal with. The fall of North Korea could pave the way for the United States to establish military bases closer to Chinese territory, or the creation of a unified Korea over which Beijing might have less influence.

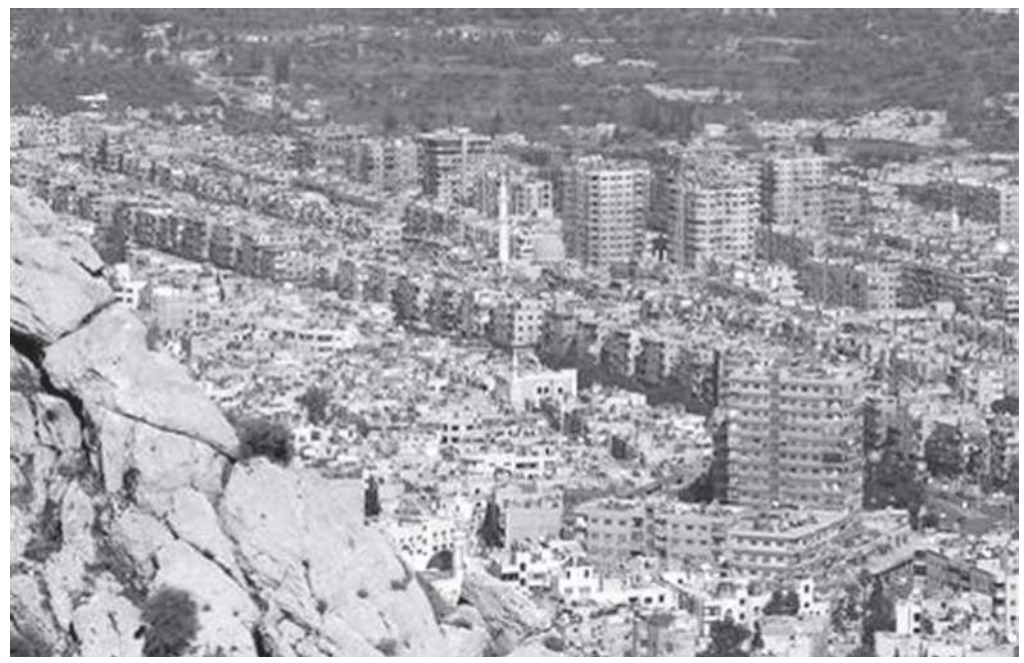
China, the world's second-largest economy, also has significant trade with South Korea and the United States. Turmoil on the Korean Peninsula would harm the economies of all three countries.

Patrick Cronin, an Asia expert at the Center for a New American Security and a senior State Department official during the George W. Bush administration, said Beijing is helping set up back-channel negotiations with North Korea to ease the tensions. But he warned that the U.S. isn't likely to win China over as a reliable partner against North Korea beyond the current flare-up.

"There are limits to how far China and the U.S. have coincidental interests with regard to North Korea," he said.

World

Syrian airstrike kills at least 15 in Aleppo



AP

This Thursday, March 22, 2012 file photo shows a general view of Damascus, Syria.

BEIRUT (AP)—A Syrian government airstrike on a heavily contested neighborhood in the northern city of Aleppo on Saturday killed at least 15 people, including nine children, activists said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the air raid hit Aleppo's Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood, which rebels seized parts of last weekend after days of heavy fighting with regime troops.

That gain had been the latest opposition advance in an urban warzone that expanded last summer, when rebel fighters took control of several neighborhoods. Aleppo is Syria's largest city and a key front in the civil war raging between President Bashar Assad and those trying to overthrow his regime.

The Observatory said the death toll from Saturday's air raid, near a checkpoint of anti-government Kurdish militiamen known as the Popular Committees, is expected to rise as many others were seriously wounded.

An amateur video of the raid showed people loading the bodies of three bloodied children and two men in the back of a pickup truck as women screamed and explosions went off in the distance. Another boy was seeing lying dead in the street near a burning truck.

The video appeared genuine and corresponded to other AP reporting on the events depicted.

"I saw dead people and cattle in the area," said Aleppo-based activist Mohammed Saeed, who added that he counted 11 bodies.

EU: No deal reached at nuclear talks with Iran

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)—Iran and six world powers failed to reach agreement Saturday on how to reduce fears that Tehran might use its nuclear technology to make weapons, extending years of inconclusive talks and adding to concerns the diplomatic window on reaching a deal with Tehran may soon close.

Expectations the negotiations were making progress rose as an afternoon session continued into the evening. But comments by the two sides after they ended made clear that they fell far short of making enough headway to qualify the meeting as a success.

"What matters in the end is substance, and ... we are still a considerable distance apart," Catherine Ashton, the European Union's head of foreign policy, told reporters at the end of the two-day talks.

Ashton, the convener of the meeting, said negotiators would now consult with their capitals. She made no mention of plans for new talks—another sign that the gap dividing the two sides remains substantial. She said she would talk with chief Iranian negotiator Saeed Jalili by telephone over further steps.

Jalili spoke of "some distance between the positions of the two sides." He suggested Iran was ready to discuss meeting a key demand of the other side—cutting back its highest-grade uranium enrichment production and stockpile—but only if the six reciprocated with rewards far greater than they are now willing to give.

WORLD BRIEFS

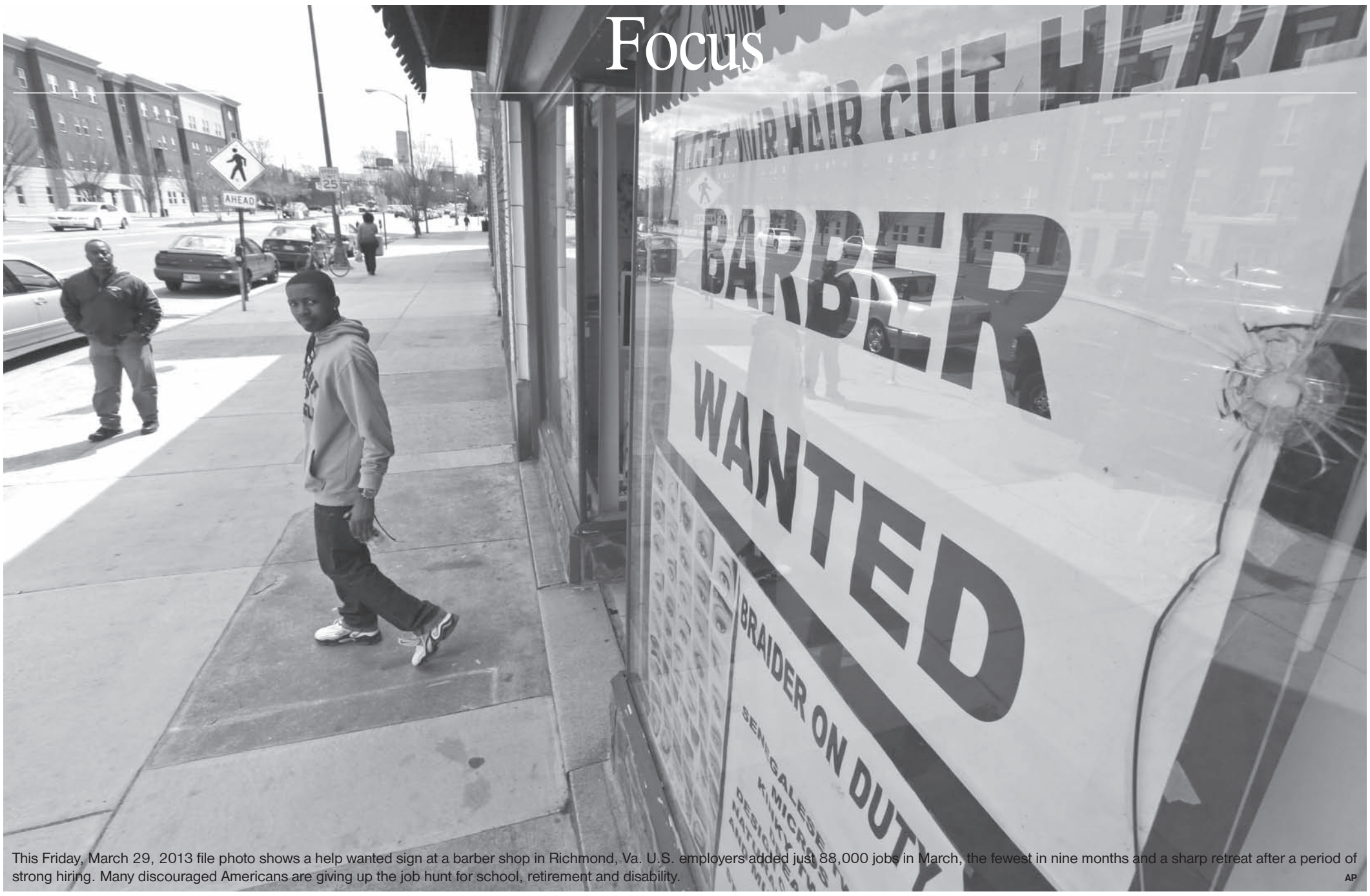
South Africa: Mandela discharged from the hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Former President Nelson Mandela was discharged from a hospital on Saturday following treatment for pneumonia, the presidency said in news that cheered South Africans who had waited tensely for health updates on a beloved national figure. Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who spent 27 years in prison for opposing white racist rule, was robust during his decades as a public figure, endowed with charisma, a powerful memory and an extraordinary talent for articulating the aspirations of his people and winning over many of those who opposed him. In recent years, however, 94-year-old Mandela became more frail and last made a public appearance at the 2010 World Cup soccer tournament, where he didn't deliver an address and was bundled against the cold in a stadium full of fans.

Suicide bomber kills 20 at political rally in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up Saturday at a lunch hosted by a Sunni candidate in Iraq's upcoming regional elections, killing 20 people, officials said. The blast ripped through a hospitality tent pitched next to the house of Muthana al-Jourani, who is running for the provincial council and held the lunch rally for supporters, councilman Sadiq al-Huseini said. The attack took place in Baqouba, a mixed Sunni-Shiite city some 60 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad. Insurgent attacks and sectarian bloodletting have been rampant there in the decade since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion. Violence is expected to surge in the run up to Iraq's provincial elections on April 20.

Focus



This Friday, March 29, 2013 file photo shows a help wanted sign at a barber shop in Richmond, Va. U.S. employers added just 88,000 jobs in March, the fewest in nine months and a sharp retreat after a period of strong hiring. Many discouraged Americans are giving up the job hunt for school, retirement and disability. AP

DROPOUTS

Discouraged Americans leave labor force

By PAUL WISEMAN and JESSE WASHINGTON
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—After a full year of fruitless job hunting, Natasha Baebler just gave up.

She'd already abandoned hope of getting work in her field, working with the disabled. But she couldn't land anything else, either - not even a job interview at a telephone call center.

Until she feels confident enough to send out resumes again, she'll get by on food stamps and disability checks from Social Security and live with her parents in St. Louis.

"I'm not proud of it," says Baebler, who is in her mid-30s and is blind. "The only way I'm able to sustain any semblance of self-preservation is to rely on government programs that I have no desire to be on."

Baebler's frustrating experience has become all too common nearly four years after the Great Recession ended: Many Americans are still so discouraged that they've given up on the job market.

Older Americans have retired early. Younger ones have enrolled in school. Others have suspended their job hunt until the employment landscape brightens. Some, like Baebler, are collecting disability checks.

It isn't supposed to be this way. After a recession, an improving economy is supposed to bring people back into the job market.

Instead, the number of Americans in the labor force—those who have a job or are looking for one—fell by nearly half a million people from February to March, the government said Friday. And the percentage of working-age adults in the labor force—what's called the participation rate—fell to 63.3 percent last month. It's the lowest such figure since May 1979.

The falling participation rate tarnished the only apparent good news in the jobs report the Labor Department released Friday: The unemployment rate dropped to a four-year low of 7.6 percent in March from 7.7 in February.

People without a job who stop looking for one are no longer counted as unemployed. That's why the U.S. unemployment rate dropped in March despite weak hiring. If the 496,000 who left the labor force last month had still been looking for jobs, the unemployment rate would have risen to 7.9 percent in March.

"Unemployment dropped for all the wrong reasons," says Craig Alexander, chief economist with TD Bank Financial Group. "It dropped because more workers stopped looking for jobs. It signaled less confidence and optimism that there are jobs out there."

The participation rate peaked at 67.3 percent in 2000, reflecting an influx of women into the work force. It's been falling steadily ever since.

Part of the drop reflects the baby boom generation's gradual move into retirement. But such demographics aren't the whole answer.

Even Americans of prime working age—25 to 54 years old—are dropping out of the workforce. Their participation rate fell to 81.1 percent last month, tied with November for the lowest since December 1984.

"It's the lack of job opportunities—the lack of demand for workers—that is keeping these workers from working or seeking work," says Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the liberal Economic Policy Institute. The Labor Department says there are still more than three unemployed people for every job opening.

Cynthia Marriott gave up her job search after an interview in October for a position as a hotel concierge.

"They never said no," she says. "They just never called me back."

Her husband hasn't worked full time since 2006. She cashed out her 401(k) after being laid off from a job at a Los Angeles entertainment publicity firm in 2009. The couple owes thousands in taxes for that withdrawal. They have no health insurance.

She got the maximum 99 weeks' of unemployment benefits then allowed in California and then moved to Atlanta.

Now she is looking to receive federal disability benefits for a lung condition that she said leaves her weak and unable to work a full day. The application is pending a medical review.

"I feel like I have no choice," says Marriott, 47. "It's just really sad and frightening"

During the peak of her job search, Marriott was filling out 10 applications a day. She applied for jobs she felt overqualified for, such as those at Home Depot and Petco but never heard back. Eventually, the disappointment and fatigue got to her.

"I just wanted a job," she says. "I couldn't really go on anymore looking for a job."

Young people are leaving the job market, too. The participation rate for Americans ages 20 to 24 hit a 41-year low 69.6 percent last year before bouncing back a bit. Many young people have enrolled in community colleges and universities. That's one reason a record 63 percent of adults ages 25 to 29 have spent at least some time in college, according to the Pew Research Center.

Older Americans are returning to school, too. Doug Damato, who lives in Asheville, N.C., lost his job as an installer at a utility company in February 2012. He stopped looking for work last fall, when he began taking classes in mechanical engineering at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College.

Next week, Damato, 40, will accept an academic award for earning top grades. But one obstacle has emerged: Under a recent change in state law, his unemployment benefits will now end July 1, six months earlier than he expected.

He's planning to work nights, if possible, to support himself once the benefits run out. Dropping out of school is "out of the question," he said, given the time he has already put into the program.

"I don't want a handout," he says. "I'm trying to better myself."

Many older Americans who lost their jobs are finding refuge in Social Security's disability program. Nearly 8.9 million Americans are receiving disability checks, up 1.3 million from when the recession ended in June 2009.

Natasha Baebler's journey out of the labor force and onto the disability rolls began when she lost her job serving disabled students and staff members at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., in February 2012.

For six months, she sought jobs in her field, brandishing master's degrees in social education and counseling. No luck.

Then she just started looking for anything. Still, she had no takers.

"I chose to stop and take a step back for a while ... After you've seen that amount of rejection," she says, "you start thinking, `What's going to make this time any different?' "

Health & Fitness

Risk for Obama in pursuing morning-after pill case

By JOSH LEDERMAN and LAURAN NEERGAARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama supports requiring girls younger than 17 to see a doctor before buying the morning-after pill. But fighting that battle in court comes with its own set of risks.

A federal judge in New York on Friday ordered the Food and Drug Administration to lift age restrictions on the sale of emergency contraception, ending the requirement that buyers show proof they're 17 or older if they want to buy it without a prescription.

The ruling accused the Obama administration in no uncertain terms of letting the president's pending re-election cloud its judgment when it set the age limits in 2011.

"The motivation for the secretary's action was obviously political," U.S. District Judge Edward Korman wrote in reference to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who made the 2011 decision.

The FDA had been poised to allow over-the-counter sales with no age limits when Sebelius took the unprecedented step of overruling the agency.

If the Obama administration appeals Korman's ruling, it could re-ignite the simmering battle over women's reproductive health, which is never far from the surface in American politics. An appeal also could sidetrack the president just as he's trying to keep Congress and the public focused on gun control, immigration and resolving the nation's budget woes.

"There's no political advantage whatsoever," said Democratic strategist Hank Sheinkopf. "It's a side issue he doesn't need to deal with right now. The best idea is to leave it alone."

Still, Obama has made clear in the past that he feels strongly about the limits. As a politician whose name won't ever appear on a ballot again, it's hard to see the downside in sticking by his principles.

"As the father of two daughters, I think it is important for us to make sure that we apply some common sense to various rules when it comes to over-the-counter medicine," Obama said in 2011 when he endorsed Sebelius' decision.

The Justice Department said it is evaluating whether to appeal. Allison Price, a department spokeswoman, said there would be a prompt decision.

The White House said Obama's view on the issue hasn't changed since 2011.

"He supports that decision today. He believes it was the right common-sense approach to this issue," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

Appealing the decision could rile liberal groups and parts of Obama's political base that are already upset with his forthcoming budget, which includes cuts to programs like Medicare and Social Security.

But currying favor with conservatives who want the ruling to stand probably won't do much to help Obama make progress on his second-term priorities.

"It won't help him with Republicans in Congress to get policy matters attended to," Sheinkopf said.

Also weighing on Obama and his aides as he decides how to proceed is the unpleasant memory of previous dust-ups over contraception.

Among them is an election-year spat over an element of Obama's health care overhaul law that required most employers to cover birth control free of charge to female workers as a preventive service.

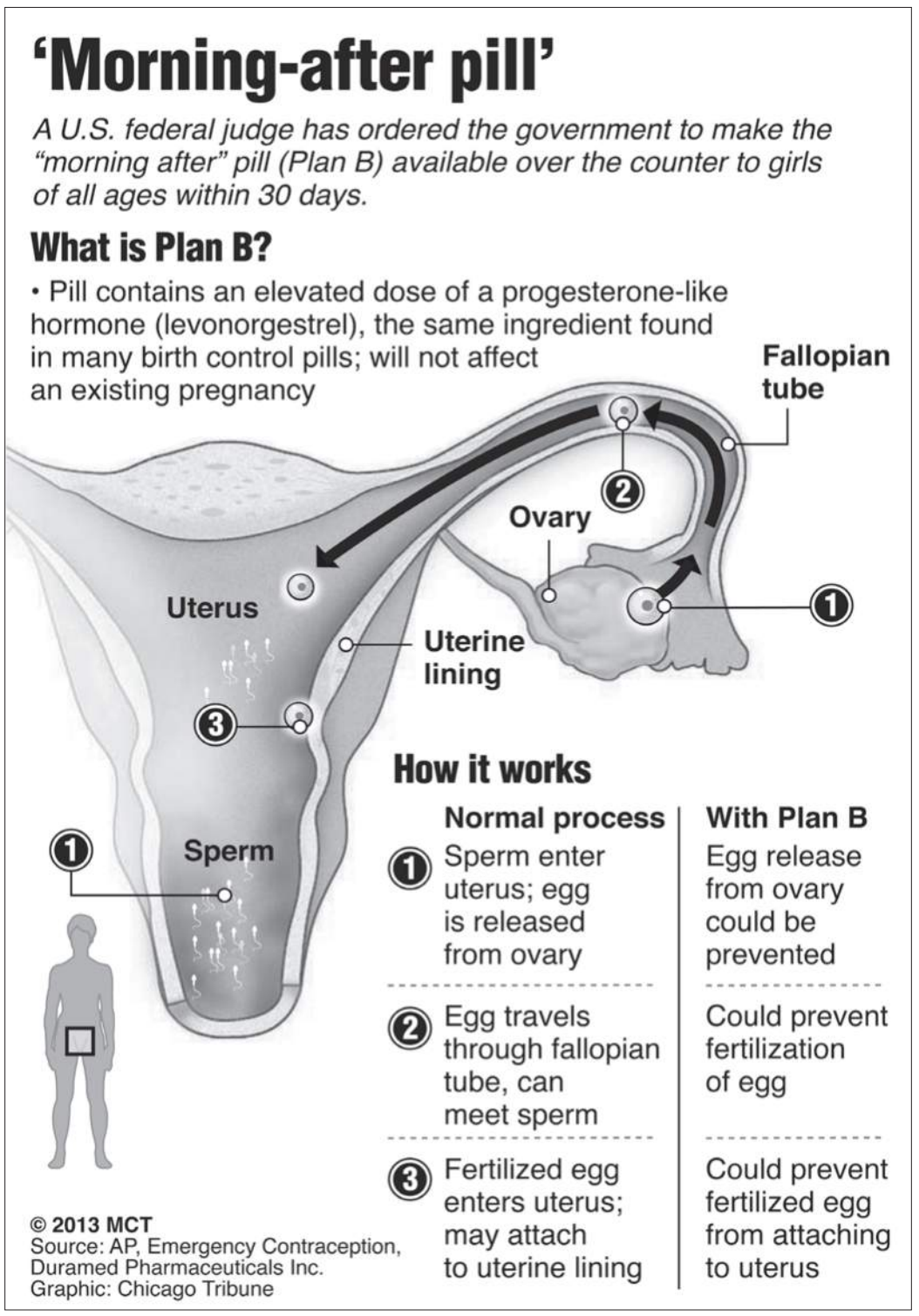
That controversy led to lawsuits that threatened to embroil Obama's health care law, already under fire for a requirement that individuals buy insurance, in even more legal action.

When Obama offered to soften the rule last year, religious groups said it wasn't enough. Obama proposed another compromise on the rule in February to mixed response from faith-based groups.

If the court order issued Friday stands, Plan B One-Step and its generic versions could move from behind pharmacy counters out to drugstore shelves. That would end a decade-plus struggle by women's groups for easier access to these pills, which can prevent pregnancy if taken soon enough after unprotected sex.

Women's health specialists hailed the ruling. They said there's no reason that a safe birth control option shouldn't be available over the counter and they dismissed concerns that it could encourage underage people to have sex.

But social conservatives, in a rare show of support for Obama's approach to social policy, said the ruling removes common-sense protections and denies parents and medical professionals the opportunity to be a safeguard for vulnerable young girls.


'Morning-after pill'
A U.S. federal judge has ordered the government to make the "morning after" pill (Plan B) available over the counter to girls of all ages within 30 days.
What is Plan B?
• Pill contains an elevated dose of a progesterone-like hormone (levonorgestrel), the same ingredient found in many birth control pills; will not affect an existing pregnancy
Fallopian tube
Ovary
Uterus
Uterine lining
Sperm
How it works
Normal process
With Plan B
1 Sperm enter uterus; egg is released from ovary
Egg release from ovary could be prevented
2 Egg travels through fallopian tube, can meet sperm
Could prevent fertilization of egg
3 Fertilized egg enters uterus; may attach to uterine lining
Could prevent fertilized egg from attaching to uterus
© 2013 MCT
Source: AP, Emergency Contraception, Duramed Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

Bird flu 101: How bad is the new H7N9 strain?

By MARGIE MASON
AP MEDICAL WRITER

A bird flu virus never before found in humans has grabbed world attention this week after it infected and killed people in China. Scientists have been scrambling to understand how it happened and, more importantly, whether it poses a risk to public health or could potentially spark a global pandemic.

The good news is that so far there's no sign that the H7N9 virus is spreading from person to person, but experts say it has mutated in a way that has left them a bit worried. Here's a crash course in Bird Flu 101 to help explain what's known about the strain and why it matters:

Q: What is the H7N9 virus and what do we know about it?

A: The H7N9 strain—named for the combination of proteins on its surface—has infected at least 14 people in China since February, killing five of them, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The latest cases were confirmed Thursday, four days after the initial announcement. Symptoms include fever and respiratory problems, including severe pneumonia. Much still remains unknown about the virus, including how people are getting infected, but scientists say it contains genetic markers that could help it infect humans. It is believed to be able to circulate in poultry stocks without sickening birds. This can allow it to spread in flocks unnoticed, making it much harder to track and also possibly creating more contamination since the birds are surviving and spending more time on farms, in markets and elsewhere.

Q: How concerned should the public be about the H7N9 virus?

A: At this point, experts say there is no cause for alarm, but they are watching it closely. No evidence exists that the virus is spreading from person to person, and no cases have been reported outside China. Samples are being collected from patients, and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention is sharing genetic sequences with outside scientists. This allows the world's top flu experts to study the virus and look for mutations that could make it more dangerous. Poultry and its products are safe to eat as long as they are properly cooked.

Q: Is there a vaccine?

A: No vaccine exists, but the World Health Organization and its partners are already working to isolate and identify possible candidate viruses that could be used to make a future vaccine if necessary. However, it would likely take months to produce the first doses.

Q: What changes are scientists seeing in the virus and why is this important?

A: Although it is not yet clear, the virus appears to have mutated in a way that would make it easier for it to adapt and grow at normal body temperature in mammals. Scientists are working to figure out which species could now be playing host to the virus, and one possibility is pigs.

Swine are important because they share some basic biological similarities with humans, and they can serve as "mixing vessels" if infected with different flu strains at the same time.

Other possibilities are that the mutations could be occurring in poultry or they are being generated after people are infected by birds.

"To me, the most important question to find out is: What is the actual host of this virus?" said Richard Webby, director of a WHO flu center at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. "It really looks like there's been some mammalian host involved."

Q: How is this bird flu different from the H5N1 strain everyone has been so concerned about in the past?

A: The H5N1 virus is highly lethal in birds, making it easier to identify and eliminate poultry outbreaks. H5N1 remains an avian influenza and has not taken root in another species, such as pigs. Most human infections have been linked to contact with infected birds. Scientists have been closely watching the virus since it first appeared in Hong Kong in 1997. It resurfaced in 2003 and decimated poultry stocks across Asia and has since killed at least 371 people. About 60 percent of those infected die, and experts have long feared the H5N1 virus could mutate into a form that spreads easily from person to person, possibly igniting a pandemic.

China reports 2 more cases of new bird flu virus

BEIJING (AP)—Shanghai has reported two more cases of human infection of a new strain of bird flu, raising the number of cases in eastern China to 18. Six of the people who contracted the virus have died.

Health officials believe people are contracting the H7N9 virus through direct contact with infected fowl and say there's no evidence the virus is spreading easily between people.

Shanghai's government said Saturday the latest victims are a 74-year-old peasant and a 66-year-old retiree. The city has been ordered by the agriculture ministry to halt its live poultry trade and slaughter all fowl in markets where the virus has been found.

The capital cities of the neighboring provinces of Zhejiang and Jiangsu also have suspended sales of live poultry. Both provinces have reported H7N9 cases.

Life & Style

Robert Remini, Andrew Jackson scholar, dies at 91

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Robert V. Remini, an award-winning scholar of Andrew Jackson and 19th century politics who viewed Washington firsthand in the 21st century when he became the official historian for the U.S. House of Representatives, has died. He was 91.

Remini, who retired from the House in 2010, died March 28 at Evanston Hospital after suffering a stroke, the University of Illinois at Chicago announced in a news release. Remini was a professor emeritus at the school.

Learned, readable and productive, Remini wrote and co-authored more than 20 books, starting in 1959 with "Martin Van Buren and the Making of the Democratic Party." On Jackson alone, he completed at least 10 books, including an influential trilogy of which the finale won the National Book Award in 1984. Benjamin Walker, star of the Broadway musical "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson," has said he read Remini as part of his research.

Rep. Dennis Hastert, a fellow Illinois resident and then-Speaker, appointed Remini historian of the House in 2005. Three years earlier, Remini had been asked by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington to write a Congressional history, "The House," for which Remini interviewed legislators and sat in on Congressional proceedings, was published in 2006.

Remini also wrote biographies of President John Quincy Adams, the celebrated orator Daniel Webster and Mormon founder Joseph Smith. He was openly unhappy with the recent divisions in Congress and wrote often about the days when deals among enemies could be reached, including the pre-Civil War history "At the Edge of the Precipice: Henry Clay and the Compromise that Saved the Union," published in 2010.

Remini himself was willing to take sides. In "A Short History of the United States," which came out in 2008, he wrote that the Bush administration had been "itching to start a war with Iraq" and faulted the conflict as futile, poorly managed and expensive. Remini also criticized Bush as indifferent to civil liberties and for successfully pushing through tax cuts that favored the rich.

A steady admirer of Jackson, who was among the country's most idolized and divisive presidents, Remini celebrated him as a self-made man, patriot and populist who opened up American society and government and resisted his fellow Southerners' desire to secede. Remini noted Jackson's harsh positions on slavery and the treatment of Indians, but still found that Jackson "profoundly assisted" the country's "rise to greatness" and "proved for all time the reality and splendor of the American dream."

Historian Andrew R.L. Cayton would declare that Remini was "as tenacious a champion as any president could ever hope to have." Remini came of age when scholars followed the "great man" theory of history, history as determined by individuals with power. He was tougher on Jackson than previous biographers, notably Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., but was still criticized on occasion as too close to his subject.

"He has mastered in all their complex detail the many issues and events of Jackson's private and public life, but in doing so he has come to see the world too much from Jackson's point of view," historian John William Ward wrote in The New York Times in 1981 as he reviewed the trilogy's second volume.

"If ... we want to know more about Andrew Jackson, there is no better place to turn than this book. If, however, we wish to know more about the shaping of our society, which has entered into the shaping of ourselves, then we will have to turn somewhere else."

A native of New York, Remini was born in 1921. He grew up during the Great Depression, but thanks to his winning a scholarship from the Mothers Club of Long Island, he became the first of his family to attend college. He was an undergraduate at Fordham University, received a master's and Ph.D from Columbia University and spent much of his academic career in the history department of the University of Illinois in Chicago.

During World War II, he served in the Navy. He had planned to become a lawyer, but found himself reading history during idle times at sea. At Columbia after the war, he studied for his master's degree under Richard Hofstadter, then a new faculty member, but eventually an influential and popular historian who helped set Remini's scholarly path.

Matisse in Norwegian museum was once Nazi loot

OSLO, Norway (AP)—The family of a prominent Parisian art dealer is demanding that a Norwegian museum return an Henri Matisse painting seized by Nazis under the direction of Hermann Goering, in the latest dispute over art stolen from Jews during World War II.

The painting at the center of the dispute, Matisse's 1937 "Blue Dress in a Yellow Armchair," depicts a woman sitting in a living room. It has been among the highlights of the Henie Onstad Art Center near Oslo since the museum was established in 1968 through a donation by wealthy art collector Niels Onstad and his wife, Olympic figure-skating champion Sonja Henie.

Museum Director Tone Hansen said it had been unaware the painting was stolen by the Nazis until it was notified in 2012 by the London-based Art Loss Register, which tracks lost and stolen paintings.

She said Onstad bought the painting in "good faith" from the Galerie Henri Benezit in Paris in 1950. The Benezit gallery "has no record of collaborating with the Nazis, as many galleries did," she said in an interview.

Although the war ended almost 70 years ago, disputes over looted art have become increasingly common in recent years, in part because many records were lost, and in part because an international accord on returning such art was only struck in 1998.

But the case of the Matisse is somewhat different in that its former owner, Paul Rosenberg, was one of the most prominent art dealers in Paris before the war, which he survived by fleeing to New York. Art Loss Register Director Chris Marinello said the records in this case are unusually clear.

According to a biography published by New York's Museum of Modern Art, Rosenberg was one of the preeminent modern art dealers of his day, and personal friends with Picasso and Matisse, among others.

Art Registry documents show he purchased "Blue Dress" directly from the painter, having noted the purchase in 1937 and put it on display in the same year, Marinello said. After the war, Rosenberg re-established his business and sought to recover more than 400 works that had been taken by the Nazis.

Marinello showed The Associated Press documents that name the piece now on display in Norway as among those missing after the war.

He slammed the Henie Onstad art museum for "stonewalling."

"The evidence is overwhelming. They just don't want to resolve this," he said.

Paul Rosenberg died in 1959. His family has remained prominent, as his son Alexandre was a war hero and later began his own art dealership.

Among surviving family descendants are Anne Sinclair, the French journalist and ex-wife of former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss Kahn.

AP

This undated image released by Henie Onstad Kunstsenter on Friday April 5, 2013, shows part of the painting "Blue Dress in an Yellow Arm Chair", circa 1936 by Henry Matisse.

Sandra Lee taking a break after her 25th cookbook

By J.M. HIRSCH
AP FOOD EDITOR

Sandra Lee says her next cookbook will be her last. At least for a while.

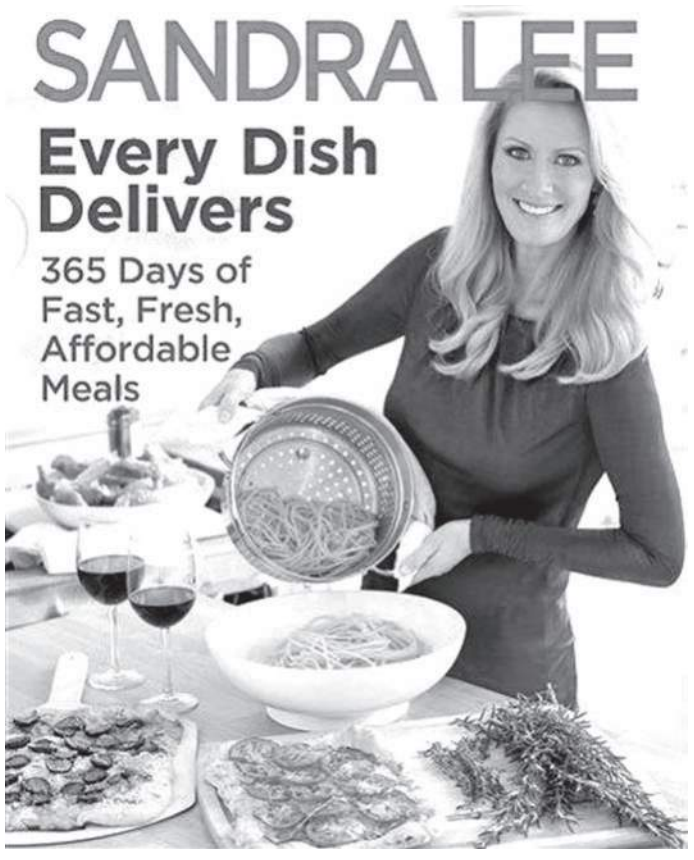
The Food Network star known for semi-homemade cooking—and more recently as the live-in girlfriend of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo—says the release this month of her 25th cookbook marks a turning point. She wants more time to focus on her eponymous magazine, as well as to write a home and gardening book.

"It's quite a milestone," Lee said of her new book, "Every Dish Delivers." "Especially when you take into consideration that when I was out shopping my very first cookbook, everybody on the planet told me it wouldn't work. I'd sit in these meetings and say to people, `Seriously? Have you been to Middle America? Do you know the American housewife?'"

Though she loves writing cookbooks, Lee said she prefers the immediacy of a magazine because it can better reflect the moment and season.

"I am completely and passionately dedicated and intimately involved with every line in the magazine. And I don't know a lot of people who are like that anymore," she said in a telephone interview. "When people go and put their dollars on the table, that's what they deserve. That's what they think they're buying and that's what you should be delivering to them."

Meanwhile, Lee is joining with fellow food celebrities Emeril Lagasse, Guy Fieri, Bobby Flay and Martha Stewart to host her second World's Largest Bake Sale on May 1, an event that raises money for the New York food bank. The last one, held in 2011, raised more than $50,000 and made it into the record books as, yes, the world's largest bake sale.



AP

This publicity photo provided by courtesy of Sandra Lee shows the cover of her cookbook, "Every Dish Delivers: 365 Days of Fast, Fresh, Affordable Meals." Lee says her next cookbook will be her last.

Late-night network shows still a white men's club

This June 3, 1992 file photo shows Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, right, playing the saxaphone with the band during the musical opening of "The Arsenio Hall Show, " in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The role of female talk show hosts in late-night TV broadcast network history, all 50-plus years of it, can be summed up in two words: Joan Rivers. It takes just another two—Arsenio Hall—to do the same for minorities.

There's no indication that's going to change in the latest round of musical chairs involving "Tonight" and "Late Night." All the NBC, ABC and CBS showcase jobs at 11:30 p.m. Eastern and later appear likely to remain securely in white men's hands.

Jay Leno is handing off to Jimmy Fallon, with speculation tagging Seth Meyers as his likely successor. Meanwhile, David Letterman, Jimmy Kimmel, Craig Ferguson and Carson Daly are sitting pretty, without the faintest drumbeat of a pair of advancing high heels to signal a threat.

There have been alternatives bandied about—Chelsea Handler, black comedian-writer Aisha Tyler—but no hints they or others are getting traction.

"In real life it seems to me that women have definitely shown themselves to be able to carry on a conversation," said Merrill Markoe, the Emmy Award-winning writer who helped David Letterman create "Late Night" at NBC. "Women have exhibited an interest in talking for centuries. I'm not sure how it is that no one has seemed to notice."

NBC did not respond to requests for comment on the issue. But if belles du jour Tina Fey and Amy Poehler can excel at TV sitcoms and movies and teach Ricky Gervais a thing or two (or three) about hosting the Golden Globes, could they be queens of the night with their own talk shows? Or maybe a Hispanic or Asian-American man could have a turn. We may miss out on a "Jimmy Kimmel Live" clip of a heavyset woman lifting her T-shirt, and the host then warning us, "I need to take a break. I'm going to throw up," but we might get other thrills.

Women and minorities have conquered other traditionally white male-dominated arenas, on and off TV—think anchorwoman Diane Sawyer, President Barack Obama—but in late-night even daring cable is content with the homogenized likes of Conan O'Brien, Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert, with such occasional dashes as E!'s Handler, BET's Mo'Nique and TBS' now-gone George Lopez thrown in.

Rivers, who became host of Fox's "The Late Show" in 1986 after filling in as the sole regular guest host on Johnny Carson's "Tonight," calls the lack of female hosts "beyond" frustrating.

Blame the broadcast industry's resistance toward change and the risk of failure, she said: "Everybody is running so scared, and has always run scared."

And executives can find reasons, or excuses, for keeping the status quo.

"They had surveys at NBC, and the surveys were that women would rather watch a man at night, which is what they're always throwing up in your face," Rivers said.

That's an argument that's still made, privately, in the industry: Women want to hear their pre-bedtime monologue jokes from a man, while Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres and Katie Couric are welcome in daytime.

It's true that women make up a majority of the audience for every network late-night show. ABC's Kimmel, for instance, is averaging 1.4 million female viewers and 770,000 male viewers this season, while Leno is watched by 1.9 million women and 1.5 million men, according to Nielsen Co. ratings.

But "Chelsea Lately" casts doubt on the notion of women snubbing women. Of Handler's 650,000 viewers, about 65 percent are female—a higher percentage of women than any male network host except Kimmel, who's about even with that number.

While networks also have to worry about drawing male viewers, especially the advertiser-coveted younger ones, the hard truth is that battle is being lost to edgier cable hosts—Stewart, Colbert and O'Brien all have majority-male audiences—and to the video games and online distractions that consume their attention.

The networks have other reasons to reconsider their white-guys-only strategy, according to an analysis of Nielsen data: They are losing out on minority viewers, Hispanics in particular.

Of the total 3.44 million viewers averaged by "Tonight" for the season through March 24, there were 188,000 Hispanics. That's about 5 percent of the total audience, compared to the nearly 17 percent Latino slice of the U.S. population.

The other late-night shows show similar degrees of disconnect with Hispanics, although some can boast healthy black viewership.

"Guess what? America's becoming more diverse," said Darnell Montez Hunt, a University of California, Los Angeles, professor who studies race and media. Late-night shows "could grow a larger and diverse audience by making different choices behind the camera and in front of the camera."

That means, in part, casting a wider net for young comedians and giving them a chance to develop into big league material, as Fallon was able to do when he moved from "Saturday Night Live" to "Late Night."

There are plenty of comers to choose from, said Laugh Factory owner Jamie Masada, who sees a parade of talented women and minorities on stage as his comedy clubs in the Los Angeles area and Chicago.

"I could give your three or four names who could be the best host," he said. "Tony Rock, the brother of Chris Rock, would be a fantastic guy to do a talk show."

TBS turned to an established comic in 2010 when it launched "The George Lopez Show." But when Lopez was bumped back an hour to midnight to make way for O'Brien's post-"Tonight" effort, ratings fell and Lopez got a pink slip. He had averaged 910,000 viewers at 11 p.m. Eastern; so far this season, O'Brien is averaging just under 600,000—and just earned a renewal through 2015.

Lopez is canceled, Wanda Sykes loses her low-rated Saturday night Fox show, and it gives networks an out, said UCLA's Hunt: "They'll point to the example of the cautionary tale as to why diversity is not a good thing for the bottom line."

But Garth Ancier saw firsthand the value of going against the grain in his tenure as Fox's first entertainment programming chief.

While Rivers' Fox stint was relatively brief—the network cited low viewership, she blames a business clash—it helped give a boost to Hall, one of the guest hosts who succeeded her, and proved there was an audience appetite for something new.

"Arsenio was getting ratings almost immediately because there was no one like him on late night," recalled Ancier. Hall made such a splash that, although Fox failed to snap him up, he struck a syndication deal and was on the air from 1989-94.

Ancier, who later moved over to the WB that launched in 1995 (and which later merged with UPN to form the CW), tried to go the non-traditional route again by proposing a Rosie O'Donnell talk show.

"We couldn't get enough enthusiasm from affiliates," he said.

Network affiliate stations are indeed part of late-night's resistance to change, said Christine Becker, an associate professor at Notre Dame University who writes the News For TV Majors blog.

Since lucrative local newscasts flow into talk shows, there's an "inherent fear" at networks that stations or sponsors will be alienated by unfamiliar fare, Becker said. Keeping viewers from flipping also conveniently delivers them back to the same channel the next morning.

But at least some local station executives say they are ready to switch it up.

"To me, it's all about popularity, if it's a man or a woman or whatever," said John O'Brien, vice president and general manager of NBC affiliate WNDU in South Bend, Ind. "If it's an individual that's entertaining in a late-night time slot and viewers like them, that's what we want."

"I'd like to see a female in there. Count me in," said Lisa Howfield, vice president and general manager of the network affiliate KVBC in Las Vegas.

It will happen, said Rivers, 79, who revisits her tumultuous talk-show career on this weekend's episode of her WE TV series, "Joan & Melissa: Joan Knows Best?"

January Jones: Fashion criticism 'makes me laugh'

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—AMC's "Mad Men" drama may garner attention for bringing back `60s glamour, but January Jones, known for her daring red carpet looks, says she doesn't care what critics think of her personal style.

"I think that fashion is an art," the 35-year-old actress, who has topped many best- and worst-dressed lists, said in a recent interview. "It's a fun way to express yourself. ... And I sort of like not pleasing people a bit."

Take, for example, the Prabal Gurung gown she wore to this year's Screen Actors Guild Awards. Critics both praised and criticized the bold black-and-white structured ensemble.

"It makes me laugh when the `Fashion Police' hate what I wear," Jones said. "I loved my whole look that night. It was really fun. And I just like people looking at me like I was crazy."

Another daring style that left critics divided: her dramatic 2012 Emmys look. Jones made a statement with a severe slicked-back hairdo, smoky cat eyes and a semisheer black organza number by Zac Posen.

In this Wed., March 20, 2013 file photo, January Jones, a cast member in "Mad Men," poses at the season six premiere of the drama series at the Directors Guild of America, in Los Angeles.

AP

Jones returns as steely housewife Betty Francis, ex-wife of Madison Avenue adman Don Draper, when the new season of "Mad Men" premieres Sunday (9 p.m. EDT).

And whether you love or hate her fashion choices, Jones welcomes the attention.

"That's good, I embrace it," she said of being considered a style icon. "I love fashion so much, and I keep trying to push the envelope and keep doing things that are fun for me, different."

Michael Jackson civil jury pool grows to 60 people

AP

In this April 27, 2011 file photo, Katherine Jackson poses for a portrait in Calabasas, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A court has ended the first week of jury selection in a civil case over Michael Jackson's death with 60 potential jurors selected.

Jury selection will resume Monday and is expected to stretch into the following week in an effort to find enough people to hear a case filed by Jackson's mother against concert giant AEG Live.

Katherine Jackson claims the company failed to properly investigate and supervise the doctor convicted of involuntary manslaughter for Jackson's June 2009 death.

Potential jurors have filled out a 24-page questionnaire that assesses their knowledge of the case, Jackson's family and their views on celebrities and multimillion dollar verdicts.

In-person questioning of potential jurors will begin on Wednesday.

AEG has denied wrongdoing.

Wesley Snipes leaves Pa. prison after tax sentence

AP

In this Sept. 9, 2009 file photo, Wesley Snipes poses during the photo call for the film "Brooklyn's Finest" at the 66th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

LEWIS RUN, Pa. (AP)—Wesley Snipes has been released from a federal prison in Pennsylvania.

Snipes was convicted in 2008 on tax charges. He was released Tuesday and placed under home confinement. A Bureau of Corrections spokeswoman said Friday he'll be overseen by the New York Community Corrections Office until July 19.

Snipes has appeared in dozens of films, from "White Men Can't Jump" and "Demolition Man" in the early 1990s to the "Blade" trilogy. He entered the McKean prison in December 2010 to begin a three-year sentence for failure to file income tax returns.

Snipes belonged to a group that challenged the government's right to collect taxes. Prosecutors say he failed to file returns for at least a decade and owed millions of dollars in back taxes.

Snipes had appealed in an Atlanta court, saying he didn't get a fair trial.

HBO is making Ephron documentary with her son

NEW YORK (AP)—Nora Ephron will be the subject of an HBO documentary being made by her one of her sons, journalist Jacob Bernstein.

The network said Friday that the project, titled "Everything is Copy," will also have Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter as executive producer.

Ephron died at age 71 last year. She was the writer behind films "When Harry Met Sally," "You've Got Mail" and "Sleepless in Seattle." Her last project is the current Broadway play about journalist Mike McAlary, with Tom Hanks in the starring role.

The documentary's title is a reference to Ephron's feeling that all of life's experiences provide fodder for a writer.

AP

This Nov. 3, 2010 file photo shows author, screenwriter and director Nora Ephron at her home in New York.

The documentary project was first reported in the Hollywood Reporter.

Irish character actor Milo O'Shea, 86, dies in NYC

AP

In this March 3, 1982 file photo, actor Paul Newman, left, and his daughter Susan visit backstage at the Booth Theater to chat with actors Michael O'Keefe, second from right, and Milo O'Shea, far right, who appear in the play "Mass Appeal," in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—The Irish actor Milo O'Shea, whose many roles on stage and screen included a friar in Franco Zeffirelli's "Romeo and Juliet," an evil scientist in "Barbarella" and a Supreme Court justice on "The West Wing," has died in New York City. He was 86.

Ireland's arts minister, Jimmy Deenihan, said in a statement announcing O'Shea's death on Tuesday that the Dublin-born actor would be remembered for "ground-breaking" roles, including a performance as Leopold Bloom in the 1967 film adaptation of "Ulysses."

O'Shea also acted on Broadway, playing a gay hairdresser in 1968's "Staircase." He was nominated for Tony Awards twice.

The public knew O'Shea best as a character actor. His bushy eyebrows and white hair made him a favorite of casting directors looking for priests. He played a drunken one on the TV show "Cheers," a pedophilic one in the 1997 film "The Butcher Boy," a charming one in the 1981 Broadway play "Mass Appeal," as well as the tragedy-enabling Friar Laurence in "Romeo and Juliet." He was a judge in the film "The Verdict."

His loony turn as the pleasure-obsessed scientist Durand Durand in the 1968 science fiction romp "Barbarella" inspired a British rock group to name its band after his character. Duran Duran also put him in a concert video.

O'Shea moved to the U.S. in the mid-1970s and was a longtime resident of New York.

Robert Downey Jr. promotes 'Iron Man 3' in Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—Hollywood actor Robert Downey Jr. has traveled to Beijing to promote "Iron Man 3," which was filmed partly in China and features well-known Chinese actors.

At a news conference Saturday, Downey—who reprises the role of Tony Stark in the upcoming movie—said he's fascinated with Chinese culture and loves Chinese movies, while urging the local audience to see the superhero film.

"Iron Man 3" was financed in part by the Chinese company DMG, which has created for the movie the role of Dr. Wu, played by the Chinese actor Wang Xueqi.

DMG chairman Xiao Wenge said introducing Chinese culture to the world is a core mission of his company. China also is a major overseas market for Hollywood movies.

"Iron Man 3" opens internationally later this month.

AP

U.S. actor Robert Downey Jr. tries out "bingtanghulu," a traditional Chinese snack, during a world premiere event of his new movie "Iron Man 3" at a Beijing hotel Saturday, April 6, 2013.

Childhood abuse casts long shadow over couple's intimacy

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with the man of my dreams for five years. Everything is great between us except for one huge thing—we are no longer intimate.

I have recently come to the realization that this isn't the first time I have had this problem. I always thought it was an issue with the relationship, but now I suspect it may be linked to molestation I suffered when I was a child. At that time I was told "people who love you don't touch you like that." Logically I know this is different, but my partner tells me I just freeze up when we are together.

I think I need professional help, but I'm embarrassed and don't know where to start. Do I need a therapist? How do I locate a good one in my area?

REACHING OUT IN CLEVELAND

DEAR REACHING OUT: Please accept my sympathy. Considering your history, what you're experiencing is understandable, and yes, you need to talk to a therapist. The therapy should have started at the time you were molested. To find a "good one," ask your physician to refer you to several so you can find a person you feel comfortable talking with.

Please do not be embarrassed to be frank, because most therapists have heard everything. It isn't their job to judge you, only to help you. None of this was your fault, and your problem is fixable.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, kids and I moved out of state seven years ago, leaving behind our extended families. Now, whenever we plan a vacation in our home state, we encounter the same issues. The first is trying to accommodate everyone's schedule into our own. The second is dividing our time between my family and my husband's. (His family is smaller than mine.)

Is it fair to divide the time in half—half for his family and half for mine—even though I have so many more relatives on my list? Or should we divide our time by the number of households we need to see? These issues cause my husband and me to argue, and it makes what is supposed to be a vacation very unpleasant. I already feel like canceling the trip.

VACATION ISSUES

DEAR VACATION ISSUES: A solution would be to have two large family get-togethers—one for your family and another for his—during your visit. Then, if you want to visit with the relatives from the two branches of the families individually, you can "divide and conquer." He can spend as much time as he wishes with his relatives, and you can spend time with yours.

DEAR ABBY: Every year my workplace sponsors a community blood drive. I am invariably asked by co-workers if I am going to donate. Because I am HIV-positive, I answer no. Then the person asks me why.

Abby, it is no one's business. There could be many reasons—ranging from health to religious to personal. Or a person may simply not want to donate.

I would give if I could. Please ask your readers not to question others about whether they will donate blood. Have you any suggestions about how I should respond?

ON THE JOB IN IDAHO

DEAR ON THE JOB: A polite deflection would be to make light of it by saying, "I just don't."

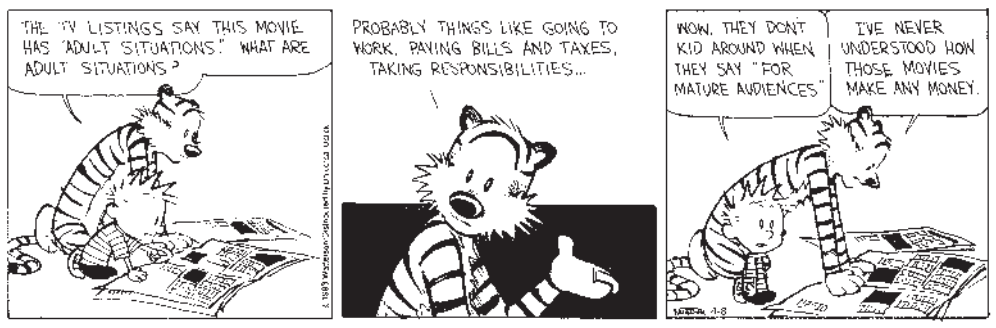
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

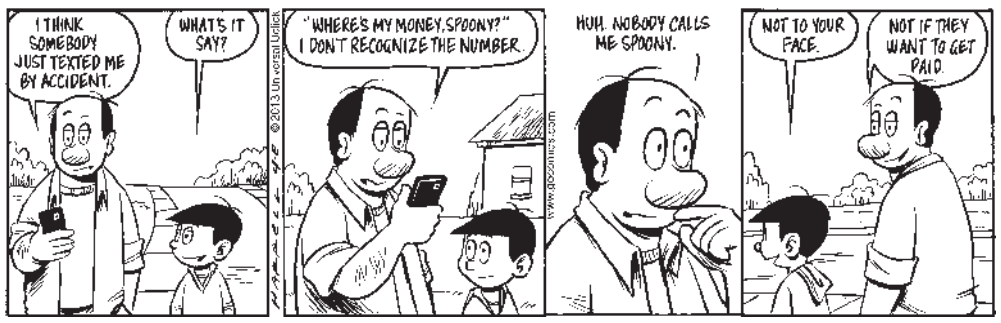

THE TV LISTINGS SAY THIS MOVIE HAS "ADULT SITUATIONS." WHAT ARE ADULT SITUATIONS?
PROBABLY THINGS LIKE GOING TO WORK, PAYING BILLS AND TAXES, TAKING RESPONSIBILITIES...
WOW, THEY DON'T KID AROUND WHEN THEY SAY "FOR MATURE AUDIENCES"
I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD HOW THOSE MOVIES MAKE ANY MONEY.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

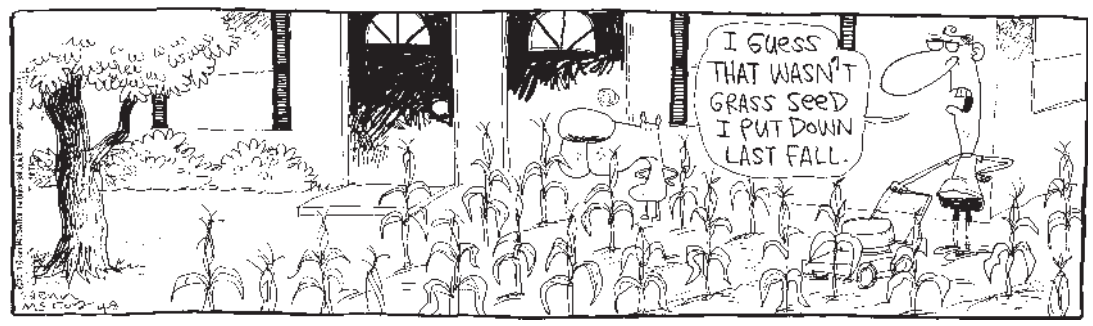
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I THINK SOMEBODY JUST TEXTED ME BY ACCIDENT.
WHAT'S IT SAY?
"WHERE'S MY MONEY, SPOONY?" I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE NUMBER.
HUH. NOBODY CALLS ME SPOONY.
NOT TO YOUR FACE.
NOT IF THEY WANT TO GET PAID.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

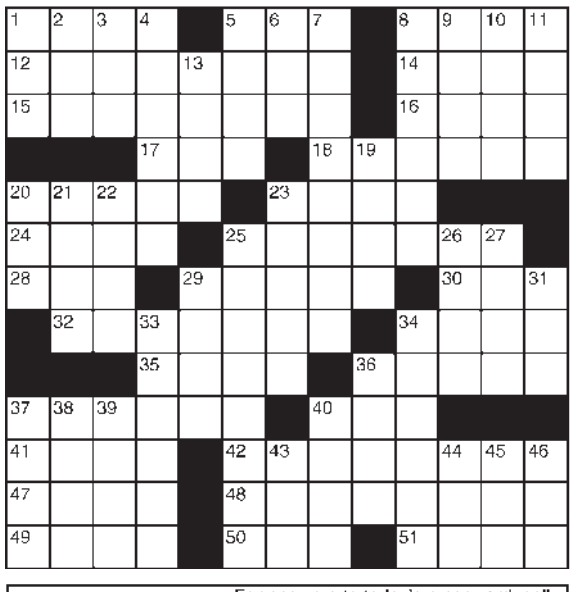
ACROSS
1 Bygone Peruvian
5 Decibel increaser, for short
8 Jewels
12 Greenhouse structures
14 On
15 Caviar provider
16 Volcanic outflow
17 "Eureka!"
18 Not as short
20 Dishes
23 Ratio phrase
24 Little one in the litter
25 Tough puzzle
28 Affirmative
29 Diarist Nin
30 — Beta Kappa
32 Learner
34 Adolescent
35 Prod
36 Cause, as havoc
37 Expose, in a way
40 Hawaiian garland
41 Any minute now
42 Obdurate
47 "Zounds!"
48 Cook on a grill
49 Novelist Jaffe
50 "This tastes awful!"
51 Leftovers recipe

DOWN
1 "Monty Python" opener
2 Seine
3 French vineyard
4 Immoderate
5 Neighborhood
6 "O Sole —"
7 Woman's two-piece?
8 Fast gait
9 And others (Abbr.)
10 Relocate
11 Practice boxing
13 Turkish title
19 $ dispensers
20 Weep
21 Colors
22 "Meet Me — Louis"
23 "Try — see"
25 Passes furtively
26 Duel tool
27 Actress Perlman
29 Commotions
31 Pen filler
33 Kampala's country
34 "Survivor" squads
36 "MacArthur Park" composer Jimmy
37 Addict
38 Nixed, at NASA
39 Complain
40 Hide in the bushes
43 Greek cross
44 Autumn mo.
45 Regret
46 Fresh

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	E	C		U	T	A	H		T	I	D	E
I	R	A		S	H	I	A		A	H	A	B
C	A	M	P	H	O	R	S		M	O	N	A
		P	I	E	R			J	A	P	A	N
S	O	B	E	R		P	A	U	L			
A	G	E	D		C	A	B	L	E	C	A	R
I	I	I		G	O	D	I	Y		A	G	O
D	E	L	A	W	A	R	E		S	M	U	T
			P	E	T	E		P	O	P	E	S
O	C	C	A	N			C	U	R	F		
S	L	A	T		C	A	M	P	A	I	G	N
L	U	S	H		A	T	O	P		R	I	O
O	B	E	Y		D	E	N	Y		E	N	U

Friday's answer 4-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Kitsch, 32; Patricia Arquette, 45; Robin Wright, 47; John Schneider, 53

Happy Birthday: What you do to prepare and how you explore and experiment with new concepts will be what separate you from any competition you encounter. Don't be afraid to be different. It's your uniqueness that will make both business and personal relationships grow into something positive and engaging. Embrace your emotions and love openly. Your numbers are 4, 9, 14, 22, 27, 35, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take stock of what's on your agenda and make sure you take care of the most important things first. Last-minute changes that are out of your control are likely to develop. Compensating for such delays will keep you on track. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Check out your alternatives when dealing with peers, legal matters or anything to do with institutions or government agencies. Make sure you stick to the rules and avoid upsetting anyone who can influence the outcome of something you are trying to accomplish. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Put more into getting things done instead of talking about what you want to accomplish. It's important to follow through and to uphold your reputation. Don't make an impulsive move if it concerns money. Sit tight and work hard. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Avoid making abrupt changes that reflect your expertise and knowledge. Showing your sensitivity and concern is good, but not if it makes you appear unstable or impractical. Don't mix business with pleasure. Innovative but sound alternatives will work best. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Expand your awareness. Self-improvement is a plus that will contribute to the big picture. A change of scenery or connecting with new people will lead to partnerships and lifestyle changes you might want to consider. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't give in to temptation to spend your cash. Anything that threatens your long-term security must be avoided. Go over your personal papers and do whatever it takes to protect your assets. A headache can be expected due to someone annoying you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put more time and effort into important partnerships. Open up regarding your intentions, feelings and beliefs. Don't let anyone pressure you into doing something that doesn't work well for you. Call the shots and let your experience guide you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Share your knowledge and creative ideas. Express how you feel about organizations and the people you are dealing with daily. It's important to be surrounded by people who inspire and motivate you to explore avenues that contribute to your goals. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Ulterior motives are apparent. Take charge, call the shots and don't be afraid to intervene if someone tries to push you in a direction that doesn't suit your needs. Choose change over more of the same and you will make progress. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Rely on the past in order to make the right choice now. Job prospects look good as long as you offer services that are within your means. Problems while traveling or dealing with people opposing you can be expected. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Revert back to the things you enjoy doing most and you will improve your position and ease your stress. Love is on the rise and discussing future plans with someone you consider to be special will set you on a positive path. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Ease into whatever it is you want to pursue. Pull from resources you know you can count on and set a standard, budget and timeline that will keep you moving forward until you reach your goals. Don't give in to bullies or peer pressure. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have pizzazz. You are curious, compelling and passionate.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4				7	6		
8		6		4			3	
	2	7						8
			4	8				3
	9		7		6		4	
2				1	3			
4						8	1	
	5			3		2		4
		1	5				6	

Difficulty Level ★ 4/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	5	7	8	3	2	4	9
3	8	2	9	5	4	7	6	1
4	9	7	1	2	6	8	3	5
2	5	4	3	6	8	1	9	7
7	3	9	2	4	1	6	5	8
6	1	8	5	9	7	4	2	3
9	2	1	6	7	5	3	8	4
8	7	6	4	3	9	5	1	2
5	4	3	8	1	2	9	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HEIRLOOM TOMATOES Solution: 12 letters

C	C	B	B	S	D	A	L	A	S	A	M	O	R	S
O	H	R	L	L	A	M	S	A	F	Y	T	S	A	T
E	E	O	A	E	Z	I	S	A	S	(F)	E	E	Z	U
U	R	W	C	G	H	N	M	T	(A)	E	E	P	O	P
R	O	N	K	O	A	I	E	(E)	D	K	L	I	Y	I
D	K	B	K	K	L	R	(L)	S	D	N	I	C	C	C
E	E	L	R	Y	Y	A	D	L	T	I	B	E	H	E
B	E	A	I	A	E	D	T	E	B	P	U	R	K	T
O	P	Y	M	L	N	L	N	E	N	I	J	M	A	C
E	E	G	R	A	L	D	L	U	N	I	L	H	R	E
U	A	P	E	R	E	I	Y	O	G	I	S	L	S	L
F	C	L	R	A	E	P	A	D	W	R	W	I	Y	L
O	H	A	E	P	A	H	S	N	A	O	U	I	U	O
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The above position will be closed on April 12, 2013. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC, INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Louisville will play Michigan for NCAA title

AP

Wichita State's Carl Hall (22) and Louisville's Russ Smith vie for the loose ball during the second half of the NCAA Final Four tournament college basketball semifinal game, Saturday, April 6, 2013, in Atlanta.

ATLANTA (AP)—Start studying, Louisville.

Michigan spoiled what would have been one heck of a going-away party for the Big East on Saturday night, beating Syracuse 61-56 to earn a spot in Monday night's championship game against top-seeded Louisville. Now the Cardinals have less than 48 hours to get ready for a team they haven't played since 1978.

"We don't have to prepare too much if we play Syracuse," Pitino, trying to become the first coach to win national titles at two different schools, said after Louisville rallied for a 72-68 victory over ninth-seeded Wichita State. "We've got a lot of preparation if we play Michigan."

Louisville (34-5), which has won 15 straight, is an early 4 1/2-point favorite over Michigan (31-7).

This is Louisville's first appearance in the championship game since 1986, when it won its second title. The Wolverines are back in the title game for the first time since 1993, when Chris Webber and Co. lost to North Carolina. Who did Michigan beat to reach that title game? None other than Kentucky, coached by Pitino at the time.

"It's going to be a great matchup," said Mitch McGary, who had 10 points and 12 rebounds for Michigan.

Louisville got its first real scare of the tournament from ninth-seeded Wichita State, falling behind by 12 in the second half. Nothing was clicking for the Cardinals on offense, they were getting in foul trouble and Kevin Ware, who can normally be counted on to give Louisville a lift off the bench, had been reduced to spectator, his broken right leg sustained in last week's win over Duke propped up on the seat next to him.

But the Cardinals can grind it out, too, a fact that was all but forgotten as they steamrolled through their first four games of the NCAA tournament. Louisville had come back to win five games already this year after trailing by nine points or more, including the title game at the Big East tournament, and the Cardinals knew they had another run in them. Sure enough, Luke Hancock knocked down one shot after another, walk-on Tim Henderson made back-to-back 3s and the Cardinals forced seven turnovers in the final seven minutes during a 30-13 run.

Wichita State would give Louisville one last scare, pulling within 68-66 on Cleanthony Early's tip in with 22 seconds left. But the Shockers were forced to foul, and the Smith and Hancock made theirs to seal the game.

"I never think we're going to lose," Pitino said. "That doesn't mean we're going to win. We have lost. But that's the attitude: Pressing teams have to stay in there. We were fouling too much. Then we started making some steals, picking up the heat. Then, of course, the guys were brilliant."

It didn't hurt that Malcolm Armstead, who earned Most Outstanding Player honors in the West Regional after averaging 15.5 points in the first four games, was ice cold, finishing with 2 points on 1-of-10 shooting. The Cardinals won't be able to count on that against Michigan.

Though AP Player of the Year Trey Burke had only 7 points on 1-of-8 shooting, Tim Hardaway Jr. led three Wolverines in double figures with 13 points.

"We know Trey is our leader," Hardaway said. "He's not going to have a game like he's been (having) the whole season. That's when our team steps up and just tries to pick him up."

Much was made of Syracuse's suffocating 2-3 zone, which had made more than one tournament team look inept. But the Wolverines rendered it ineffective early on by making shots from long range, including four 3s in the first half. They got sloppy down the stretch, allowing Syracuse to all but erase Michigan's 8-point lead with 3:54 left.

Trailing 58-56, the Orange had a chance to force overtime. But Brandon Triche was called for a foul when Jordan Morgan stepped in to take the charge with 19.2 seconds left. After Jon Horford made only one of two free throws, Syracuse called timeout and set up a play. But instead of going for a 3-pointer, Trevor Cooney drove the lane.

The ball was swatted away, Michigan snatched up the rebound and Morgan scored on a thunderous dunk with just over a second remaining.

"It was a close game throughout the whole game," Burke said. "I just kept telling the guys, coming out of halftime, `Syracuse is a really talented team, and they're going to go on runs.' This is a game of runs.

"A lot of people would crack under pressure when you're in that type of situation."

Now Michigan will face a different kind of pressure against Louisville - the Cardinals' stingy press.

"Louisville is going to be a difficult game," Michigan coach John Beilein said. "We've played against Rick's teams and Kentucky one time, when I was at Canisius, and at West Virginia a few times. He's a great coach with great schemes and it's going to be very difficult."

Adelman gets 1,000th win as Wolves down Pistons

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The final seconds ticked down on Rick Adelman's 1,000th career victory, and a season's worth of hardship and heartache quickly evaporated. As his players surrounded him to celebrate, the 66-year-old basketball lifer quickly disengaged from the crowd, and everyone in the arena knew where he was headed.

His wife Mary Kay, his partner of four decades, the mother of his six children and the center of his universe, waited sheepishly at the corner of the court. Still head over heels for each other all these years later, the couple embraced. He kissed her once, twice, three times. An unforgettable moment in a painfully disappointing season that most agree can't end soon enough.

Adelman became the eighth coach in NBA history to win 1,000 games when the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the Detroit Pistons 107-101 on Saturday night.

There were impressive performances on the court to make it happen, but what everyone will remember more than anything else was that moment for a curmudgeonly coach who missed 11 games earlier this season to be with Mary Kay while she was treated for seizures.

"She had to be part of it," Rick Adelman said. "I told her I was going to bring her down. She wasn't very happy about that. She's been there all these years. When you go through a job like this and situations and you move and you raise six kids and everything else, if it wasn't for her I never could have done it. That's why I'm really glad to do it here."

Nikola Pekovic had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and J.J. Barea scored 20 points for the Timberwolves, who surrounded their 66-year-old coach when the buzzer sounded. A brief video tribute was played, and a 29-47 season suddenly felt like a playoff run.

"He deserves it," Ricky Rubio said. "What he did this season, it's amazing. He stayed with the team. He had some issues, but he gets through those issues and still gets with us. That means a lot. I admire that. I want to say thank you for everything he did for us, staying with us in tough moments. Even when, for him, it was even tougher. That's leadership. He shows us how to do it."

Heat 106, 76ers 87

In Miami, LeBron James scored 27 points in his return from a strained right hamstring, five other Miami players reached double figures and the Heat moved closer to securing home-court advantage for the entire NBA playoffs.

Rashard Lewis scored 14 and Norris Cole added 13 for the Heat, whose magic number for clinching the league's best regular-season record was trimmed to two.

Miami moved to 60-16, one win shy of matching the franchise single-season record. The Heat got there after outscoring Philadelphia 29-11 in the fourth quarter.

Jrue Holiday scored 18 points for Philadelphia, which got 14 from Evan Turner and an 11-point, 11-rebound night from Spencer Hawes.

Wizards 104, Pacers 85

In Washington, John Wall scored 37 points in a display of speed and flair to lead Washington over Indiana.

Wall made 16 of 25 shots, throwing his palms up after making an improbable 14-foot sideways runner and flexing his muscles to the fans on the first row after banking in a fast-break layup. He even blocked a layup attempt by Roy Hibbert, the 6-foot-4 point guard rising to swat the ball away from the 7-foot-2 Pacers center.

Wall also had five assists, four rebounds and two blocks for the lottery-bound Wizards, who have won nine straight at home and are 18-4 at the Verizon Center this season when he's on the floor.

Nets 105, Bobcats 96

In New York, Deron Williams had 32 points and six assists, and Brooklyn strengthened its hold on fourth place in the Eastern Conference by beating Charlotte.

Brook Lopez added 19 points and backup Andray Blatche had 16 as the Nets completed a four-game sweep of the NBA-worst Bobcats.

Brooklyn moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Chicago for the No. 4 seed and home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Ben Gordon scored 27 points and Gerald Henderson had 22 for the Bobcats.

Bucks 100, Raptors 83

In Milwaukee, Monta Ellis had 22 points and nine assists, and Milwaukee secured its first playoff berth in three seasons by beating Toronto.

Brandon Jennings had 16 points and seven assists, while Larry Sanders added 12 points, nine rebounds and six blocks for Milwaukee, which needed a win and a Miami victory over Philadelphia on Saturday to clinch at least the eighth seed in the Eastern Conference. The Heat beat the 76ers, 106-87.

The win was Milwaukee's 10th straight over Toronto, its longest active winning streak over any opponent. And it pulled the Bucks within two games of the idle Boston Celtics for the No. 7 seed.

Alan Anderson led Toronto with 14 points off the bench, and Quincy Acy had 13.

Spurs 99, Hawks 97

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 31 points and 14 rebounds to help short-handed San Antonio escape with a victory over Atlanta.

Kawhi Leonard added 23 points and DeJuan Blair had 11 for San Antonio.

The Spurs were without Tony Parker (neck) and Manu Ginobili (hamstring strain), who sat out the game with injuries. They also lost Boris Diaw, who left midway through the second quarter with back spasms.

John Jenkins had 23 points and Mike Scott added 22 for Atlanta, which has lost three straight. Both were career highs for the rookie guards. Ivan Johnson added 14 points, Shelvin Mack had 12, and Johan Petro had 11 points and 15 rebounds.

Nuggets 132, Rockets 114

In Denver, Wilson Chandler scored 21 points in place of the injured Danilo Gallinari to help Denver beat Houston for its 20th consecutive win at home, matching a team record.

Reserve Corey Brewer led the Nuggets with 22 points. Andre Iguodala had 18 points and a season-high 14 assists, while Andre Miller added 11 points and 12 assists as Denver finished with a season high in points while improving to a league-best 35-3 at home.

The Nuggets also won 20 in a row at home from Jan. 9-March 30, 1985.

Jeremy Lin scored 23 points for the Rockets, who lost their seventh straight to the Nuggets, including all four this season. James Harden added 14 points for Houston, which had its four-game winning streak snapped.

Pujols bangs two HRs as LA beats Texas

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Albert Pujols homered twice to offset another tough day for Josh Hamilton in his second game back in Texas, and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Rangers, 8-4, Saturday.

Pujols hit a two-run shot to the lawn in center field off Matt Harrison in the first inning and watched Hamilton strike out twice and fly out behind him after taking three intentional walks.

The only other time the Rangers let him swing, Pujols homered off reliever Jason Frasor in the sixth.

Mark Trumbo also had a two-run homer in the first against Harrison (0-2), who gave up eight hits and five runs in five innings after losing to Houston on opening night.

Mitch Moreland and Ian Kinsler hit third-inning home runs against Tommy Hanson (1-0), who gave up three runs over six innings in his Angels debut after arriving in an offseason trade with Atlanta.

The boos were loud again for Hamilton, who said before the game that his wife had to call over security during Friday's home opener for Texas because fans were shouting insults and obscenities at their family. There were no major incidents, and Hamilton said his family planned to return for the remaining two games.

Hamilton, who signed a $125 million, five-year deal to join Pujols in the middle of the Angels lineup, is 1 for 20 with 10 strikeouts.

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols (5) celebrates his solo home run off of Texas Rangers' Jason Frasor as the Angels' Josh Hamilton (32) stands at the plate in the sixth inning of a baseball game Saturday, April 6, 2013, in Arlington, Texas. Pujols homered twice to offset another tough day for Hamilton in his second game back in Texas, and the Angels beat the Rangers, 8-4.

Tigers 8, Yankees 4

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera went 4 for 4 day and Prince Fielder drove in two runs to lead Detroit over New York.

Max Scherzer (1-0) gave up four runs in five-plus innings to pick up the win in a shaky start, his first of the season. Phil Hughes (0-1) allowed four runs —three earned—on eight hits in four-plus innings on a day when he was originally scheduled to make a rehabilitation start in the minors.

Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 0

In Toronto, John Lackey left with a strained biceps in his first start since September 2011, grabbing his right arm in pain and coming out in the fifth inning as Boston lost to Toronto.

Lackey (0-1) missed last season following elbow ligament-replacement surgery in November 2011. He allowed a two-run homer to J.P. Arencibia in the fourth, then clutched his arm and jumped around the mound in pain after throwing low and inside to Jose Reyes on a 2-2 pitch with one out in the fifth.

White Sox 4, Marines 3

In Chicago, Alex Rios hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer off Felix Hernandez in the sixth inning and Chicago beat Seattle.

With one out and Alejandro De Aza aboard after a leadoff single, Rios drove an 0-2 pitch through a tricky wind and way over the wall in left for his second homer in two days.

Hernandez (1-1) allowed four runs and six hits over 6 1-3 innings in his first try for win No. 100. The right-hander struck out three to give him 1,498 for his career.

Rays 6, Indians 0

In St. Petersburg, Alex Cobb scattered four hits in 7 1-3 innings, Kelly Johnson homered and Tampa Bay beat Cleveland.

Cobb (1-0) struck out six and walked three as the Rays blanked Cleveland for the second consecutive game. Joel Peralta and Cesar Ramos completed a five-hitter.

Indians catcher Lou Marson left the game in the fourth with a cervical-neck strain, when he had a jarring collision with Desmond Jennings.

Twins 6, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Justin Morneau singled in the tiebreaking run with two outs in the ninth inning after an error by Chris Davis, and the Twins got a home run from Chris Parmalee in a victory over the Orioles.

Although Davis picked up his 17th RBI, he failed to become the first player in major league history to homer in the first five games of the season. The first baseman also opened the door for the Twins to snatch their first win in Baltimore since April 21, 2011.

Athletics 6, Astros 3

In Houston, Bartolo Colon was sharp in his return from a drug suspension and Coco Crisp, Jed Lowrie and Seth Smith homered to lead Oakland to a victory over the Astros.

It was the first appearance for Colon (1-0) since he received a 50-game suspension for a positive testosterone test Aug. 22. He allowed eight hits and three runs without a walk in six innings for the win.

Crisp homered for the second straight game with a solo shot in the fourth that put Oakland up 1-0.

Nationals 7, Reds 6

In Cincinnati, Ian Desmond made two errors at shortstop that helped the Cincinnati Reds take the game to extra innings, then led off the 11th with his first home run of the season to rally the Washington Nationals to a 7-6 victory.

Bryce Harper also homered for the Nationals, who were coming off a 15-0 loss in the series opener - their most lopsided defeat since baseball returned to Washington in 2005. The Reds hit six homers in that one.

Washington got the better of it this time, hitting five homers to Cincinnati's one. The

Cardinals 6, Giants 3

In San Francisco, Carlos Beltran hit a go-ahead, two-run single against his former team and Shelby Miller beat the reigning World Series champions in his second career start as St. Louis defeated San Francisco to spoil Buster Posey's MVP party.

Pete Kozma had three hits, drove in a run and scored for the Cardinals from the No. 8 spot in the order. Matt Holliday singled in a run and Matt Carpenter added an RBI single in the ninth.

Mets 7, Marlins 3

In New York, John Buck drove in four runs and was part of a rare umpire's call that helped New York beat Miami.

Collin Cowgill homered, David Wright got three hits and slumping Ike Davis added a pair of singles to lift the Mets on a brisk afternoon at Citi Field.

New York led 3-2 in the seventh inning moments before plate umpire Jim Joyce made the unusual call.

Juan Pierre was at second base and Greg Dobbs hit a two-out single.

Diamondbacks 9, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Jason Kubel, Paul Goldschmidt and Aaron Hill each homered in Arizona's victory over the injury-depleted Brewers.

Kubel's two-run homer gave the Diamondbacks a 3-2 lead in the fourth. Goldschmidt then hit a two-run drive in the fourth to make it 6-2. Hill's solo shot capped the scoring in the eighth after his RBI double in the first gave Arizona a 1-0 lead.

Starter Patrick Corbin (1-0) gave up a run in each of the first two innings, but settled in to win his season debut.

Braves 6, Cubs 5

In Atlanta, B.J. Upton led off the ninth inning with a homer and his brother Justin followed one out later with another long ball that helped the Atlanta Braves rally past embattled Chicago Cubs closer Carlos Marmol for a victory.

Justin went 3 for 5 with two RBIs. He also homered in the first and now has five homers in Atlanta's first five games.

The Braves rallied from a 5-1 deficit with three runs in the eighth off Kyuji Fukijawa and two in the ninth off Marmol.

Rockies 6, Padres 3

In Denver, Jon Garland threw six sharp innings in his first appearance in almost two years and Michael Cuddyer drove in four runs, helping the Rockies to a win over the Padres.

Garland (1-0) hardly showed any signs of rust in his first big league start since June 1, 2011. He had season-ending shoulder surgery a month later. The procedure also kept him sidelined for 2012. He gave up two runs and struck out two.

Tyson Ross (0-1) lasted four innings and allowed three runs —two earned—in his Padres debut after being acquired in the offseason from Oakland. He struggled with his control as he walked four.

Dodgers 1, Pirates 0

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw followed up his sensational one-man show on opening day with seven innings of two-hit ball and nine strikeouts in a spirited duel with A.J. Burnett, and the Dodgers beat Pittsburgh for their second straight shutout win over the Pirates.

Kershaw (2-0) walked one and retired 17 consecutive batters after giving up a leadoff single in the first inning to Starling Marte.

Brandon League followed Paco Rodriguez and Kenley Jansen out of the bullpen and pitched a hitless ninth for his second save.

Phillies 4, Royals 3

In Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Kevin Frandsen hit a bases-clearing, three-run double with two outs in the ninth off closer Greg Holland to lift the Phillies to a victory over the Kansas City Royals in front of the smallest crowd in Philadelphia in four years.

The Phillies had just two hits and trailed 3-1 to start the inning. Holland (0-1) walked Chase Utley, Ryan Howard and Michael Young to load the bases. He then struck out Domonic Brown swinging and fanned John Mayberry Jr. looking.

But Frandsen ripped a first-pitch fastball to right-center to knock in all three runners.

Royals starter Luis Mendoza threw six stellar innings, and the Royals' bullpen went into the ninth with seven hitless innings in the series.

Cardinals to work out USC's Barkley

ARIZONA (AP)—The Arizona Cardinals are scheduled to hold a private workout Saturday at USC for quarterback Matt Barkley.

The Cardinals own the seventh overall pick in the 2013 draft. Despite completing a deal for quarterback Carson Palmer on Tuesday, the Cardinals are still interested in finding a long-term solution replacement. Like Barkley, Palmer is a USC alum.

Barkley also worked out for the Buffalo Bills in Los Angeles on Monday. At his pro day last week, he completed 56 of 62 passes, including two drops, according to USA Today.

He didn't work out in quarterback drills at the NFL Scouting Combine in February because he was resting his injured right shoulder.

Though he missed the final two games of the 2012 season, Barkley passed for 3,273 yards and 36 touchdowns as a senior, to become the Pac-12 leader for career passing yards (12,327) and touchdowns (116).

Opinions on Barkley are all over the board. NFL.com draft analyst Greg Cosell called Barkley a "fourth round talent" but projected he'd be off the board well before the third day of the draft.

NFLDraftScout.com ranks Barkley as the No. 2 quarterback in the class but none of this year's passers are being considered franchise cornerstones as the top two picks in the 2012 draft, Andrew Luck of the Colts and Robert Griffin III of the Redskins were last April.

It's possible Barkley could be drafted in the top 10. He started for four years and was a repeat captain for the Trojans. The pressing concern for general managers with Barkley is arm strength and downfield accuracy.

There were similar questions in 2006, when the Cardinals drafted USC's Matt Leinart 10th overall. Leinart, due to a lack of discipline and professionalism, made it only halfway through his six-year, $51 million rookie deal and has never held a fulltime starting job.

Fans and personnel—including current GM Steve Keim, who was a scout with the organization when Leinart was drafted—could still be scorched by potential for adding another Southern Cal prospect.

Arizona showed a willingness to forgive school ties earlier in the week when the Cardinals acquired Palmer.

Pacquiao fight could be in Macau or Singapore

Juan Manuel Marquez connects on Manny Pacquiao during their December 2012 bout in Las Vegas.

AP

BOXING

MACAU (AP)—Manny Pacquiao may meet an old foe in a new place in September.

Promoter Bob Arum said he is trying to put together a fifth fight between Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez and shopping it to casinos in Macau and Singapore. He said Saturday night at the Brandon Rios-Mike Alvarado fight that the bout would likely be at one of the Venetian hotel-casinos in Macau or Singapore.

"The thing we're waiting on is which one of their hotels they want to do it at," Arum said.

Marquez would be the most likely opponent for Pacquiao, though Arum indicated earlier that Timothy

Bradley — who won a disputed decision over Pacquiao last year — is another possibility.

Marquez knocked Pacquiao out in the sixth round in December, flattening the Filipino fighter with a right hand that left him face down on the canvas for 2 minutes. It was the first win for Marquez in four fights between the two rivals.

If Pacquiao meets Marquez, it could be held far from the Las Vegas Strip, where they fought all four of their fights. The MGM Grand hotel would ordinarily figure to be the host for the bout, but the hotel reportedly is holding a September date for Floyd Mayweather Jr., assuming he beats Robert Guerrero at the hotel May 4.

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6-1, 6-0.

In the top half of the draw, Tania Tan, who was seeded first in the draw, beat Conatsu Kaga in the second round, 6-4, 6-3. Malika Miyawaki was also in the upper draw, swept Sally Hwang, 6-1, 6-0, and eked out a tougher 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) triumph over Catherine Atalig in the second round to set up a semis tiff against Tan. Tan went on to end Miyawaki's three-game winning run with a 6-4, 6-3 victory in the Final Four and arrange a finals showdown against Ishikawa.

With the battle for the girls U12 singles championship down to the Top 2 players in the draw, spectators expected a close fight. However, Ishikawa had other plans and that included sweeping Tan in yesterday's finale, 6-0, 6-2.

Joining Ishikawa in the winners circle in the girls singles division were fellow favored players Thea Minor and Negahr Rastguiy.

Minor, the CNMI's No. 1 U18 player, swept two foes to win the U18 tiara. She first dominated Carol Lee last Saturday, 6-4, 6-1, and then defeated Mikayla Lopez in yesterday's title match, 6-2, 6-1. Lopez marched into the championship game after thumping Alina Ishikawa in the other Final Four pairing last Saturday, 6-0, 6-3.

In the girls U15, the top-ranked Rastguiy began her championship bid with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Julia Ishikawa in the upper bracket semis, 6-1, 6-1. Ishikawa made it to the Final Four after eliminating Liza Atalig, 6-3, 6-1.

In the lower bracket semis, Heras posted a 6-2, 6-2 win over Emily Jones, who barged into the Final Four after slipping past Ami Tsukagoshi, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, last Saturday morning. Jones also met Heras last Saturday (evening) and failed to notch back-to-back wins, allowing the latter to secure the second finals berth.

Meanwhile, the boys U12, U15, and U18 singles and adults doubles were also played over the weekend and results will be reported later this week, while Week 2 of the PIC tournament will start this Friday and will feature the adults singles and juniors doubles events.

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B time in the 200 IM and will feature four divisions, the U12, 13-14, 15-16, and Open.

The 10-year-old Tammy holds the 200 IM mark in her age group (9 to 10) after clocking in at 2:46.38 (AAAA time and way faster than the AA time in the girls 11 to 12) during the Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet on March 23, surpassing the previous record (2:53.17), which she incidentally owned and posted on April 14, 2012. The Tsunami Saipan bet also reset five other marks in her age group in the same SSC-hosted meet, besting swimmers from Guam and the Marshall Islands.

Kensuke Kimura does not own the 200m IM record (2:16.56 of Dean Palacios made on July 25, 2003) in his age group (15 to 16), but the former clocked in at 2:19.49 (AAA time) during the 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival in Sydney, Australia.

Kensuke Kimura and Tammy will also participate in the Guam Championships where Tsunami Saipan is setting a high goal.

"We're aiming at winning the most championships in Guam," Hiro Kimura said.

Besides Tammy and his son, Hiro is counting on seven other swimmers to deliver the goods for Tsunami Saipan. The club is banking on Jun Tenorio in the boys U8 division, Sophia Gauran and Ryuto Yanai in the 9 to 10 division, Hiroto Yanai in the 11 to 12 and Angel Marie Tan, Angel De Jesus, and Kaito Yanai in the 13 to 14 age group.

Meanwhile, while some Tsunami Saipan swimmers will be competing in the GSF Invitational Meet later this month, the club will also hold a 20-m short course meet for most of its young swimmers.

"Tsunami holds this kind of meet twice every season. We had our first short course meet last December. This meet aims to help develop young and inexperienced swimmers. We will be doing 20m races in all strokes and 20m relays.

After the short course, Hiro and his swimmers will prepare for the 2013 CNMI Championships, which will be held on May 11 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

"Tsunami Saipan plans to field 40 swimmers in the CNMI Championships," Kimura said.

NMASA

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ing of all CNMI athletes and on the day of the forum, all present are allowed to run and vote for their own officials. The Athletes' Commission is required to have not less than five and no more than seven members, who must be at least 16 years old and have never been sanctioned for a doping offense. Both males and females must also be represented on the commission and the election must take place in December this year.

Ones the members are elected, the Athletes' Commission will designate one of its officers to be a part of the NMASA board of directors.

Many time CNMI tennis coach and player Jeff Race welcomed the idea of having an athletes representative to the NMASA board. He said, athletes, especially the young ones, can help CNMI sports gain support from the government.

"Sometimes the government listens more to athletes than to the sports officials. If these young athletes go up there (Legislature), maybe then we could get the support we needed," said Race, who served as NMASA's vice president last year.

NMASA on several occasions had asked financial aid from the government for the CNMI Team's participation to off-island events (Micronesian Games, Pacific Games, and Mini Games) and the group either got partial help or none at all. Right now, NMASA is hoping to get a share from the government's budget for fiscal year 2014.

Besides helping NMASA secures government funding, Igitol said getting inputs from athletes are also important.

"If we will be hosting some big tournaments or planning a program, we could get ideas from them. Also, these athletes are the future sports leaders in the CNMI, so it will be best for them to get involved in NMASA or in their own group so they can start training and preparing for more responsibilities," Igitol added.

Meanwhile, NMASA has donated $1,000 to Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association for the latter's hosting of the IT&E Northern Marianas Open Junior Championships.

"This is a big event for CNMI tennis and it is just right that we support this kind of competition," said Igitol, who made the motion to assist NMITA in holding the Junior ITF ranking event.

"So far we have 78 players competing in the tournament with most of them coming from around the world—from India, Australia, Great Britain, Russia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Japan, Germany, the Philippines, China, Portugal, Switzerland, U.S. mainland, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Indonesia. On behalf of NMITA, we would like to thank NMASA for its assistance," Race said.

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have her on our team," said Alvarez Jr., who also won the raffle draw grand prize of a round trip ticket to any Delta Air Lines destination in the U.S.

HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa and vice chair Gloria Cruz Cavanagh touted the success of the event, attracting race enthusiasts between 13 and 70 years old to compete in the track on the event's first year.

Both Cavanagh and Nishikawa separately said on Saturday that the interest generated by the race has got the organization to think about holding a two-day event next April, with heat qualifiers to be held on a Saturday and the final race on Sunday.

Additionally, HANMI eyes actively inviting racers from Guam, Japan, and Korea, and will push to have the annual event included in the calendar of activities promoted by the Marianas Visitors Authority to the tourist market.

The event is made possible by title sponsors Budweiser and Marpac and major sponsors Mobil, Delta Air Lines, Triple J, Coca Cola, Docomo Pacific, IP&E, Pacifica Insurance, Japan Saipan Travel Association, LSG, Saipan Shipping, Marianas Variety, and HANMI members.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

x-New York	49	26	.653	–
x-Brooklyn	44	32	.579	5½
x-Boston	39	37	.513	10½
Philadelphia	31	45	.408	18½
Toronto	29	48	.377	21

Southeast Division

z-Miami	60	16	.789	–
x-Atlanta	42	36	.538	19
Washington	29	47	.382	31
Orlando	19	58	.247	41½
Charlotte	18	59	.234	42½

Central Division

x-Indiana	48	29	.623	–
x-Chicago	42	33	.560	5
Milwaukee	37	39	.487	10½
Detroit	25	52	.325	23
Cleveland	23	52	.307	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	57	20	.740	–
x-Memphis	51	25	.671	5½
Houston	43	34	.558	14
Dallas	37	39	.487	19½
New Orleans	26	50	.342	30½

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	56	20	.737	–
x-Denver	53	24	.688	3½
Utah	40	37	.519	16½
Portland	33	43	.434	23
Minnesota	29	47	.382	27

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Clippers	50	26	.658	–
Golden State	44	32	.579	6
L.A. Lakers	40	36	.526	10
Sacramento	27	49	.355	23
Phoenix	23	53	.303	27

x-clinched playoff spot
z-clinched conference

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	3	2	.600	–
Boston	3	2	.600	–
Tampa Bay	3	2	.600	–
Toronto	2	3	.400	1
New York	1	4	.200	2

Central Division

Chicago	3	2	.600	–
Detroit	3	2	.600	–
Minnesota	3	2	.600	–
Cleveland	2	3	.400	1
Kansas City	2	3	.400	1

West Division

Oakland	4	2	.667	–
Texas	3	2	.600	½
Seattle	3	3	.500	1
Los Angeles	2	3	.400	1½
Houston	1	4	.200	2½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	4	1	.800	–
Washington	4	1	.800	–
New York	3	2	.600	1
Philadelphia	2	3	.400	2
Miami	1	4	.200	3

Central Division

Cincinnati	3	2	.600	–
Chicago	2	3	.400	1
St. Louis	2	3	.400	1
Milwaukee	1	4	.200	2
Pittsburgh	1	4	.200	2

West Division

Arizona	4	1	.800	–
Colorado	4	1	.800	–
Los Angeles	3	2	.600	1
San Francisco	3	2	.600	1
San Diego	1	4	.200	3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Basketball League B Division Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Adobo's Harold Aranda dribbles against Gualo Rai's Joseph Galulu during the second quarter of their Division B title game in the 2013 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Adobo's Jasper Yap drives against Gualo Rai's Justin Cayading.

Adobo's Mike Saturno pulls up for a jumper against Gualo Rai's Justin Cayading.

Adobo's James Dela Cruz challenges two Adobo defenders.

Adobo's Shane Deleon Guerrero pulls up for a jumper.

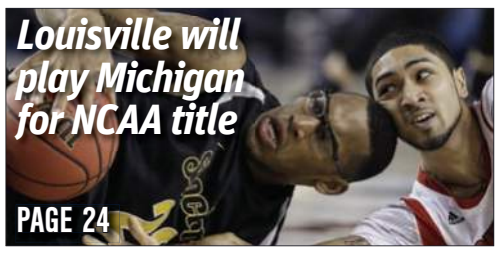
Adobo's Genesis Mamaril is hounded by Gualo Rai's Mike Yap.

Gualo Rai's Rainier Deleon Guerrero goes up for a one-hander against Adobo's Mike Saturno.

Adobo's Lester Vertudez drives to the baseline.

Gualo Rai's Marlou Ibanez is blocked by Adobo's Lester Vertudez.

Gualo Rai's Prince Factor is sandwiched by two Adobo defenders.



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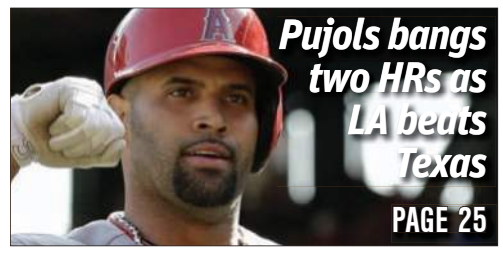
Sports



Seeded players triumph in PIC tennis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ranked players in the girls junior singles delivered in Week 1 of the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships held at the Pacific Islands Club hard court over the weekend.

In the 14-player U12 singles, the second-seeded Julia Ishikawa notched three wins to clinch the championship. She started her title bid with a hard-earned three set win over Asia Raulerson, who came from an impressive 6-0, 6-0 victory over Hana Ojima in the opening round last Friday. Then last Saturday, Raulerson challenged Ishikawa and forced a deciding third set after they split the first two, 6-1, 6-4. Ishikawa went on to escape the upset axe of Raulerson after pulling off a 6-1 triumph in the third set.

In the semis, Ishikawa faced Grace Choi, who eliminated Jireh Warren in the first round, 6-2, 6-1, and stunned the No. 3 pick Mimi Sakano, 6-4, 6-4. The lower bracket semis pairing then ended in favor of Ishikawa, who needed only two sets to oust Choi,

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Julia Ishikawa returns to Asia Raulerson during their second round match in the girls U12 singles event in the 13th Annual PIC Tennis Championships last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club hard court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Monster Energy tops
Budweiser Go Kart Championship

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Team Monster Energy prevailed in the 1st Budweiser Go Kart Championship hosted by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands last Saturday at the Mariana Seaside Circuit.

Sponsored by Pacific Trading Co., the winning team took home a trophy and $2,000 after beating 18 other groups that signed up for the race which is now officially one of the signature fundraising events of HANMI.

Team Monster Energy is composed of captain Ray Alvarez Jr., Shane Alvarez, Naum Vehkov, and Deryielle Sablan. They maintained a huge lead in the final race against runner-up Team Iron Hands, which won $1,000 and a trophy; and third place winners Team Seaside Twister and Team Marianas Trekking.

In an interview, captain Ray Alvarez, Jr. said that while they were expecting to be one of the race winners as they came out strong early on in the race, they never anticipated snatching the checkered flag at the end of the event. He also revealed that their team started practicing for the race only a week before the event.

"It takes a lot to win as a team, and I think we had all the factors that made that win possible for us: having good teamwork, avoiding sliding out and accidents, and being consistent," Ray Alvarez Jr. told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ray Alvarez Jr. noted that having a fast woman racer on their team also helped.

"D (Sablan) held her ground and held the team's ground. It was definitely a good factor to

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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Team Monster Energy members celebrate their victory at the podium during the awards ceremony for the 1st Budweiser Go Kart Championship last Saturday at the Mariana Seaside Circuit.

3 Guam meets await Tsunami Saipan swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will be competing in three tournaments in Guam before the 2012-2013 season ends.

According to Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, the club will be sending representatives to the Guam Swimming Federation Invitational Meet on April 20, the GSF Pentathlon on May 4, and the Guam Championships set from May 31 to June 1.

Kimura added that Guam invited Miku Tammy and Kensuke Kimura to join the pentathlon and they will be racing in the 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 100m freestyle, and 200M individual medley. The pentathlon is only for swimmers with

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan members pose for a group photo before a training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last month.

NMASA OKs creation of Athletes' Commission

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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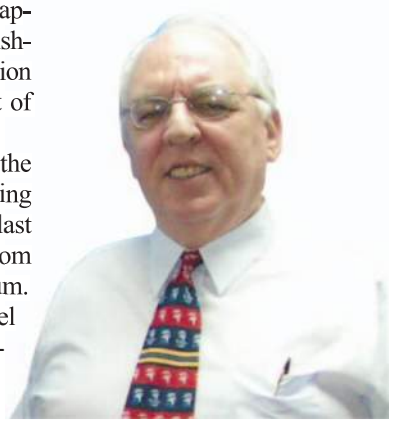
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has approved the establishment of an Athletes' Commission that will promote the interest of CNMI athletes.

NMASA gave its nod to the creation of a new group during the association's meeting last Thursday at conference room of the Gilbert C. Gymnasium. NMASA president Michael White designated secretary-general Rose Igitol of baseball as the official responsible for convening athletes to form the commission and elect their own officers. White said NMASA plans to call a meet-

See NMASA on Page 26